

Warrior

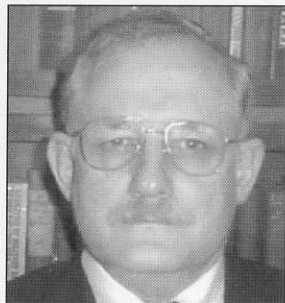
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US Infantryman in World War II (3)

European Theater of Operations 1944–45



Robert S Rush • Illustrated by Elizabeth Sharp & Ian Palmer



ROBERT S. RUSH PhD is a retired Command Sergeant Major, who served in the US Army from 1969 to 1999. He has worked as a historian to several key policy review teams for the United States Army. His PhD (*Hell in Hurtgen Forest: Ordeal and Triumph of an American Infantry Regiment*) focused on US and German units in the Hurtgen Forest, Fall 1944. Robert currently works at the US Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair.

ELIZABETH SHARP trained in Fine Art at the Leicester College of Art and Technology, UK. She is a full member of the Society of Equestrian Artists and of the Society of Women Artists. She exhibits regularly in London with both these groups.

IAN PALMER is a highly experienced digital artist. A graduate in 3D design, he has provided illustrations for many publications, from modelling James Bond's Aston Martin to recreating lunar landings. He lives and works in London with his wife and three cats.

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Further information about aspects of life as an infantryman in the US Army in World War II are covered in the following books also published by Osprey:

Warrior 45 US Infantryman in World War II (I) Pacific Area of Operations 1941-45

Warrior 53 US Infantryman in World War II (2) Mediterranean Theater of Operations 1942-45

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US INFANTRYMAN IN WORLD WAR II (3) EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS 1944-45

INTRODUCTION

“Incentive is not ordinarily part of an infantryman’s life ... He fights without promise of either reward or relief. Behind every river there’s another hill – and behind that hill, another river. After weeks or months in the line only a wound can offer him the comfort of safety, shelter and a bed. Those who are left to fight, fight on, evading death but knowing that with each day of evasion they have exhausted one more chance of survival. Sooner or later, unless victory comes, this chase must end on the litter or in the grave.”

General Omar Bradley

This is the third book examining the US infantryman in World War II. It provides the reader with a general overview of how American infantrymen in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) were organized, equipped, trained, and cared for, and particularly deals with the problems the soldiers faced between June 1944 and May 1945.

As with the preceding books on the US infantryman, I have created a composite character, based upon accounts of real soldiers and events, to examine the reality of daily life and combat in the European Theater of Operations, rather than just the dry details of soldiering.

In the course of the book, we follow “Joseph” as he is drafted in February 1941, assigned to a Regular Army regiment in the 4th Division, and lives and trains with the 22d Infantry in the United States until January 1944 when it ships to England. On June 6, 1944, he lands on Utah Beach (Normandy, France) and in the following months, fights through France, Belgium, and into Germany.

All military organizations exist under the rubric of regulations and doctrine. Every aspect under which soldiers operate, the uniforms they wear, and the weapons they carry are all prescribed by regulation. The different regulations, field manuals, unit reports, and histories written by individual participants all form the basis of Joseph’s narrative. While the focus is on one hypothetical soldier, fully realistic in timescale and experience, the generalities and experiences of the many are also examined and carefully woven into the individual narrative thread. Our soldier’s experiences include activities similar to what most infantrymen lived through in the European Theater of Operations: his induction, training in the United States before and after Pearl Harbor, promotion, weapons, small-unit tactics, injury and illness, as well as everyday existence during some of the most casualty-intensive combat experienced during World War II.

The European Theater of Operations – encompassing France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Denmark, and Austria – is seen by many as the major theater of World War II with more infantry regiments serving there than in any other theater. Combat was sustained and brutal, with infantrymen seldom coming out of the line to rest and refit, and the endless stream of casualties and replacements reminded all of its intensity. It was here that armor played a large role in the sweeps across France and Germany. However, the infantry still had to take and hold the ground: at the Normandy beachhead, through the hedgerows, bloody Aachen, Metz, the Hürtgen Forest, the Ardennes, and thousands of other locations where men fought and died. The war in Europe ended just 11 months after combat was joined on June 6, 1944.

Unlike the first divisions in the Pacific or North Africa, the divisions landing on D-Day and in the following summer months had been training for combat for years. Most of their soldiers were draftees, many of whom had been in the Army more than three years.

Warrior 45 *US Infantryman in World War II (1) Pacific Area of Operations 1941–45*, covers in detail the organization and duties of personnel within a rifle company, and Warrior 53 *US Infantryman in World War II (2) Mediterranean Theater of Operations 1942–45*, details a weapons company. There were five other different companies or detachments within the infantry regiment: headquarters companies at regiment and battalion level; antitank and cannon companies that provided heavy weapons support at regimental level; and a service company and medical detachment that provided combat service support.

DIFFERENT HEADQUARTERS AND SEPARATE COMPANIES

Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company

The Regimental Headquarters consisted of the regimental commander (colonel), executive officer (lieutenant-colonel), S-1 Adjutant (captain), S-2 Intelligence (major), S-3 Operations and Training (lieutenant-colonel), S-4 Supply (a major from Service Company), assistants and liaison officers.

The Headquarters Company consisted of a company headquarters, an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, and a communication platoon grouped into one unit primarily for administrative purposes.

The company headquarters was similar to that of all other infantry companies with a company commander, executive officer (XO), first sergeant, transportation NCO, messengers, drivers, bugler in the command group, supply and mess section, and company clerk in the admin section. The company commander also served as the headquarters commandant, responsible for the administrative functioning of the tactical operations center. The executive officer served as the second-in-command, with additional duties as regimental gas officer. The first sergeant assisted the commander in administering the company and as headquarters commandant.

The intelligence and reconnaissance platoon operated under the supervision of the regimental intelligence officer and was organized into a platoon headquarters and two reconnaissance squads.

The communications platoon established, maintained, and operated the radio and wire communications systems of the headquarters' message center. The platoon leader also served as the regimental communications officer. The platoon was composed of a headquarters, message center, wire section, and radio and visual sections.

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company

The Battalion Headquarters consisted of the battalion commander (lieutenant-colonel), executive officer (major), S-1 Adjutant (captain) – also headquarters company commander – S-2 Intelligence (lieutenant), S-3 Operations and Training (captain), S-4 Supply (captain) – from Service Company.

The Headquarters Company consisted of a company headquarters, a battalion headquarters section, a communication platoon, an ammunition and pioneer platoon, and an antitank platoon.

The company headquarters was divided into a command and an admin group similar to the regimental headquarters described earlier, except that the commander also served as battalion adjutant and the executive officer served as the battalion motor officer.

The Battalion Headquarters section was composed of soldiers provided for the operation of the command post and observation posts. It consisted of the battalion sergeant-major, operations sergeant, intelligence sergeant, clerk, drivers, messengers, and scouts.

The communications platoon established, maintained, and operated the radio and wire communications systems of the headquarters' message center. The platoon leader also served as the battalion communications officer. The platoon was organized similarly to that of the regimental headquarters company.

The ammunition and pioneer (A & P) platoon maintained the battalion ammunition supply service, executed simple engineering tasks not requiring technical training, and installed and breached mine fields. The platoon consisted of a headquarters and three A & P squads.

The antitank platoon provided anti-mechanized protection to the battalion. The platoon was organized into a headquarters section and three 2.22 in. (57mm) antitank gun squads.

Antitank Company

The Antitank Company provided – in conjunction with the battalion antitank platoons – protection against mechanized forces threatening the regimental elements. The company consisted of a company headquarters, three 2.22 in. (57mm) antitank platoons, and an antitank mine platoon.

Most infantry divisions contained antitank guns towed behind one and one half ton cargo trucks. However, those divisions landing on D-Day had halftracks as prime movers for added mobility.

The company headquarters was divided into a command and an admin group similar to all infantry company headquarters.

The antitank platoons each contained a headquarters and three antitank squads, each containing one 57mm (2.22 in.) antitank gun and one 2.36 in. (60mm) bazooka. Each antitank platoon was capable of independently supporting a designated infantry unit.

The antitank mine platoon contained a headquarters and three antitank mine squads capable of emplacing and removing minefields as well as basic engineering tasks.

Cannon Company

The Cannon Company provided close and continuous indirect fire support to the regiment by destroying or neutralizing enemy troops which posed the greatest threat, and which could not be readily engaged by supporting artillery. The company consisted of a company headquarters, and three 105mm (4.1 in.) firing platoons. Most infantry divisions contained towed howitzers; however, those divisions landing on D-Day contained 105mm (4.1 in.) howitzers on self-propelled carriages.

The company headquarters was divided into a command and an admin group similar to all infantry company headquarters.

The cannon platoons each contained a headquarters and two howitzer sections of one 105mm (4.1 in.) howitzer each. Each cannon platoon was capable of independently supporting a designated infantry unit be it a battalion or company.

Service Company

The Service Company's primary mission was to be the regimental supply unit. It comprised a company headquarters, a regimental headquarters platoon, and a transportation platoon.

The Company Headquarters was divided into a command and an admin group, similar to the regimental headquarters described earlier, except that the commander also served as assistant to the regimental Supply Officer and there was no executive officer.

The Regimental Headquarters platoon consisted of a headquarters section and a supply section. The headquarters section contained soldiers who served in the different command posts. It had the personnel officer, regimental sergeant-major, operations sergeant, intelligence sergeant, color sergeants, clerks, drivers, and messengers. The supply section consisted of the regimental and three battalion supply officers, a supply office group, receiving and distribution group, and ammunition supply group.

The transportation platoon constituted the regimental trains. It consisted of a headquarters section, three battalion sections, a headquarters company section, antitank company section, cannon company section, and maintenance section.

Medical Detachment

The Medical Detachment provided the doctors, dentists, medics, and litter bearers necessary to conserve the strength of the regiment. It was organized into a headquarters section and regimental aid station group of doctors, dentists, and medics, three battalion sections organized into an aid station group, litter bearer group, and company aid man group. Patients received only emergency treatment at the aid station: bleeding was stopped, bandages readjusted, and wounds dressed only as necessary.

The Rifle Company

Infantry rifle company organization changed throughout the war, not so much in personnel but in new weapon systems and numbers of

Personnel	Jul 15, 1943		Jul 15, 1944		Jun 1, 1945	
	Officers	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men
Rifle Company (3) (TO 7-17)	6	187	6	187	6	236
Command Group					2	7
Admin Group						33
Rifle Platoon (3)	1	40	1	40	1	40
Platoon Headquarters	1	4	1	4	1	4
Rifle Squads (3)		12		12		12
Weapons Platoon					2	75
Platoon Headquarters	1	5	1	5	2	7
60mm (2.36 in.) Mortar Section		2		2		2
60mm (2.36 in.) Mortar Squad (3)		5		5		5
.30 cal. Machine gun Section		2		2		2
.30 cal. Machine gun Squad (2)		5		5		5
Assault Section						1
Assault Squads (3)						7
Special Weapons Section						2
Special Weapons Squad (3)						5

Infantry Rifle Company Table of Organization 1942-45.

automatic weapons carried. Numbers and equipment within the rifle platoon remained stable throughout the war, and the M1 rifle the primary weapon. The element to undergo the greatest change was the weapons platoon, which went from a headquarters, machine gun and mortar sections to that plus the 57mm (2.22 in.) recoilless rifle, special weapons, and bazooka-armed assault sections – reflecting the real need for a heavier base of fire element to support the rifle platoons as they moved forward.

WEAPONS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS

Individual weapons: carbines, rifles, and pistols

Every soldier within the separate companies and headquarters carried an individual weapon for emergency defense and local protection. The weapons are described in detail in *MAA 342 US Army in World War II: The Pacific Theater of Operations (1) 1942-45*. Crew-served automatic weapons are described in *Warrior 53 US Infantryman in World War II (2) Mediterranean Theater of Operations 1942-45*.

Heavy weapons within the Infantry Regiment's separate companies

Antitank gun

The basic design of the 57mm (2.22 in.) M1 antitank gun was that of the British six-pound antitank gun. It fired fixed armor-piercing rounds that could penetrate 3.4 inches (86mm) of armor at 20° slope at 500 yards (455m). The gun's approximate rate of fire was 30 rounds per minute, depending upon its crew's skill. The antitank gun was towed either by a one-ton cargo carrier or by one of the series of halftracked carriers with off-road capability.

Equipment	15 Jul 43	26 Feb 44 w/c	1 Jun 45
Rifle Company (3) (TO 7-17)			
Headquarters	9 carbines 26 M1 Rifles	9 carbines 26 M1 Rifles 6 BAR 6 submachine guns ¹ 5 2.36-in Bazookas	10 carbines 31 M1 Rifles 6 BAR* 6 submachine guns*
Rifle Platoon (3)			
Platoon Headquarters	1 carbine 4 M1 Rifles 1 1903A4 Sniper*	1 carbine 4 M1 Rifles 1 1903A4 Sniper*	1 carbine 4 M1 Rifles 1 M1C Sniper*
Rifle Squads (3)	11 M1 Rifles 1 BAR	11 M1 Rifles 1 BAR	11 M1 Rifles 1 BAR
Weapons Platoon			
Platoon Headquarters	4 carbines 2 M1 Rifles 1 .50 cal. HMG 3 2.36-in (60-mm) Bazookas	4 carbines 2 M1 Rifles 1 .50 cal. HMG	5 carbines 4 M1 Rifles 1 .50 cal. HMG
2.34-in (60-mm) Mortar Section	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle
2.34-in (60-mm) Mortar Squad (3)	1 Mortar, 2.34-in (60-mm) 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle	1 Mortar 2.34-in (60-mm) 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle	1 Mortar, 2.34-in (60-mm) 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle
.30 cal. Machine gun Section	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle	1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle
.30 cal. Machine gun Squad (2)	1 .30 cal. LMG 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle	1 .30 cal. LMG 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle	1 .30 cal. LMG 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle
Assault Section			1 M1
Assault Squads (3)			2 2.36-in (60-mm) Bazookas 2 .45 cal. Pistols 5 M1 Rifles
Special Weapons Section 57mm (2.22 in.)			1 carbine 1 M1 Rifle
Special Weapons Squad (3)			1 Rifle, 57mm (2.22 in.) 2 carbines 2 .45 cal. Pistols 1 M1 Rifle
Table notes ¹ Six BARs and six submachine guns added to TOE 6/44 to be distributed as mission necessitated. * Sniper rifles were authorized one per platoon to be assigned by the platoon leader in lieu of M1 rifle.			

Infantry Rifle Company Table of Equipment 1942-45.

Howitzer

In 1944, the 105mm (4.1 in.) M2A1 howitzer was mounted on either the M2A2 towed carriage or the M7 howitzer motor carriage and was commonly referred to as the "Priest." The howitzer's rate of fire was four rounds per minute with a maximum range of 12,500 yards (11,373 m). Ammunition included high explosive, smoke, armor-piercing, and chemical rounds. The towed version was pulled by a two and one half ton truck at speeds up to 35 miles per hour (56 km/h) on improved roads. The M7B1 version was a lightly armored open-topped vehicle based on the M4A3 tank chassis. It carried a basic

load of 69 105mm (4.1 in.) rounds and traveled at a maximum speed of 26 miles per hour (42 km/h).

THE FIRST DRAFT

The draft provided the lifeblood of the Army, and between November 1940 and June 1945 7,420,082 men entered the Army through conscription.

On September 16, 1940, after one year of war in which Germany had run roughshod over Europe – driving Britain to the brink of defeat – and driven deep into the Soviet Union, President Franklin D Roosevelt signed the Selective Service Act, which called to service 900,000 single men aged 21–35 for a one year period. The first draft registration in 1940 called for all men aged 21–35, resident or alien, to register. In mid-October, over 16,000,000 men registered, were tentatively classified after filling out an eight-page questionnaire, received their draft numbers, and waited for the National Lottery. The draft began when Secretary of War Stimson drew number 158 on October 29, 1940.

For its soldiers, the Army wanted young, single men who met the prewar physical and mental standards; for the most part it received what it wanted in the first draft call. Most of the men called were reasonably healthy, unattached, and often unemployed. On average, the selectees were an inch taller and eight pounds heavier than those drafted in 1917.

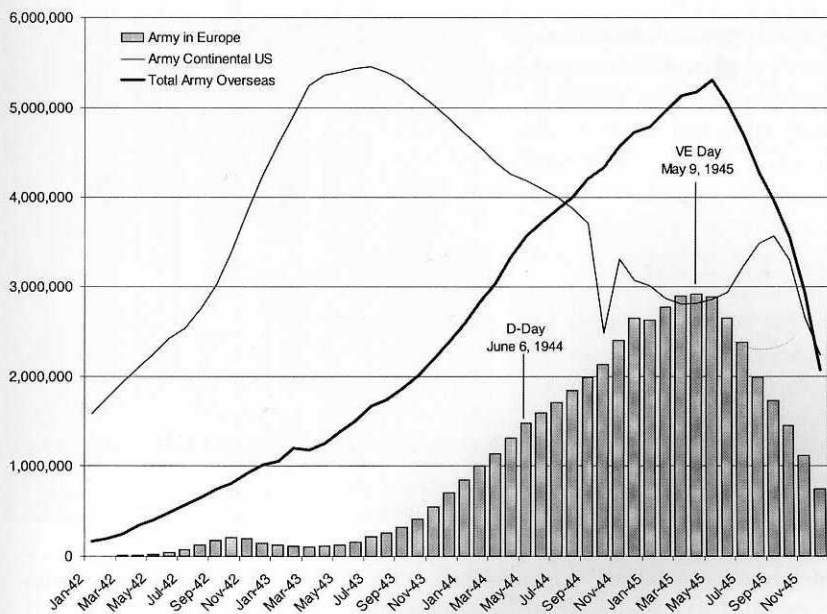
Just under 17,000 men entered service in November and December 1940 with another 289,000 between January and March 1941, the majority arriving untrained to increase Regular Army units to wartime authorizations. Later, inductees filled the National Guard divisions and, after Pearl Harbor, they formed Organized Reserve divisions. By mid-1941, basic training was consolidated in replacement centers with tactical units drawing their personnel from the centers (see Warrior 53 for training at replacement centers).

Beginning in 1941, polls showed that most Americans thought it was more important to stop the Axis powers than to remain at peace, although even more did not want the United States to go to war. Many hoped that material aid alone to Britain, and later the Soviet Union, might bring about victory. However, that was not to be.

On August 18, 1941, President Roosevelt extended the inductees' period of service to 18 months, releasing those aged 28 and older although most were called back to duty after Pearl Harbor. On February 16, 1942, 20-year-olds began registering and shortly thereafter started to be drafted. The Draft was in full swing: in 1942, 3,364,000 inductees entered the Army, more than in any other year of the war.

By June 30, 1942, 18- and 19-year-olds were registered, becoming liable for service shortly thereafter, with 19-year-olds drafted first. However, by the end of 1942 there were still more soldiers aged over 40 than under 20 on active duty.

Mental and physical standards for draft-eligible men were reduced by late 1941, and continued to drop throughout the war. By February 1942, the Army was accepting those who required glasses, and men who had just enough teeth to eat the standard Army rations. In 1943 and 1944 civilians with certain defects, which would have disqualified them in



US Army Strength in the European Theater of Operations 1942-1945.

1941 and 1942, were accepted. Prewar fathers, who up until late 1943 only made up about six percent of those drafted, supplied almost 50 percent of men drafted after April 1944. (Further information on Guardsmen is located in Warrior 45, and on enlistees in Warrior 53.)

The European Theater of Operations

The US Army entered ground combat in the European Theater on June 6, 1944 with 11 regiments; by the end of the war there were 129. Between that date and May 1945, US Army infantry units fought in six named campaigns in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and Germany.

The greatest percentage of soldiers serving overseas served in the ETO. The army in theater increased from 775 troops in January 1942 to 2,918,766 in April 1945.

More infantry regiments served in the ETO than in any other theater, accumulating 1,408 months in theater and 1,026 months in combat during the period 6 June through April 1945. Because of the large distances, and almost relentless combat along a continually moving front, there were very nearly too few divisions to man the line, resulting in units and their soldiers rarely receiving a respite from battle. Many times replacements were fed directly into units while they were in combat, because there was no other alternative.

Units remained in the line for extended periods and were subjected to daily losses, if not directly due to combat, then to the terrible weather. Unlike the Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters, replacement policies kept units at near full strength by removing soldiers in hospital from unit rolls, ensuring replacements arrived within two days of requisition and reassigning former recuperated soldiers back to their units.

For every soldier felled through combat in the ETO, one other was stricken with disease or nonbattle injuries, and 69 men out of every 1,000 were hospitalized every day of the campaign. The average daily casualty rate for the Army was one battle casualty for every four and one half

rendered ineffective through disease or nonbattle injury.

The Regular Army

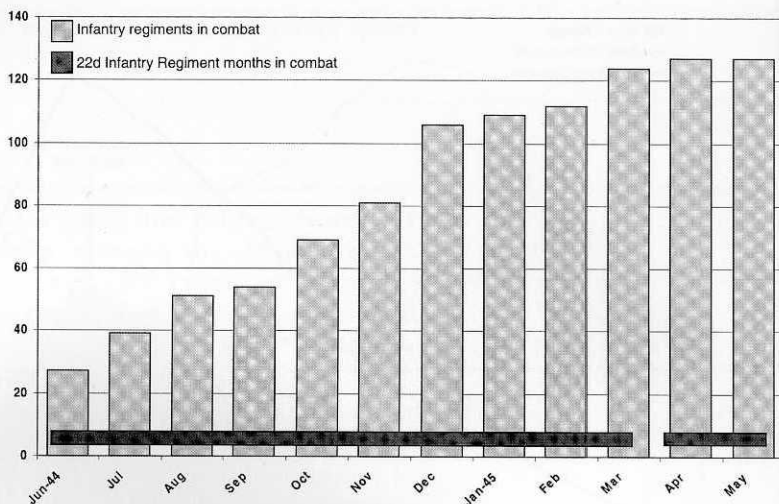
In 1939 there were 189,488 soldiers on active duty and only five divisions (1st, 2d, 3d, Hawaiian, and Philippine.) By Pearl Harbor, there were ten Regular Army infantry (1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 24th) divisions. Although Regular Army in name, most units comprised only 20 percent regulars in 1941, the remainder being draftees. By November 1941, the majority of platoon leader positions and many company commanders were Reserve officers called to active duty. Most divisions had sent levies of regulars to form new units and by the time they entered combat they contained only about ten percent regulars, with the remainder being draftees and Organized Reserve Corps officers.

Between 1940 and 1945 the US Army expanded from eight Regular Army infantry divisions to a total of 66 Regular, Guard, and Reserve divisions with the great majority of soldiers filling these units being draftees. Unlike World War I – when half of the Regular Army regiments stayed home to train the national army – all saw overseas duty in World War II, with 24 serving in Europe, 17 in the Pacific, and others in the Caribbean and in Alaska. Of the 45 Regular Army regiments active on December 7, 1941 (including the Philippine Scouts), 16 were outside the continental United States. Nine others shipped overseas in 1942 along with numerous National Guard infantry regiments. Others remained in the United States until 1943 and 1944, providing trained cadres for newly forming units, while receiving and training drafts of men destined to fight within the regiments when they in turn shipped overseas.

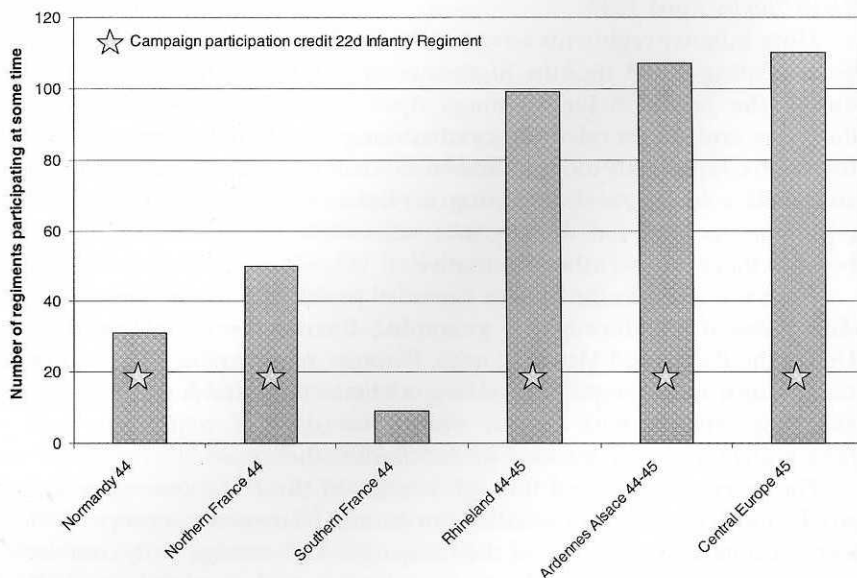
In 1940, the 22d Regiment, like other Regular Army regiments, expanded rapidly with officers and enlisted men filling its ranks.

The 22d Infantry

The 22d US Infantry is the regiment into which our composite soldier



US infantry regiments in combat in the European Theater of Operations.



Campaigns in the European Theater of Operations.



was drafted in February 1941. Joseph Stein was born in August 1918 in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of three children and had graduated high school in 1937. Since there were few jobs, Joseph's father insisted he go to university, and to make ends meet, Joseph worked as a night watchman. When Joseph was drafted he became one of many from New York City, which during World War II supplied one of every nine men drafted; more draftees than any state except New York and Pennsylvania.

In 1939 the 22d US Infantry, a prewar component of the inactive 4th Division, consisted of two small battalions stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia and Fort McClellan, Alabama. It was only in October 1940 that the regiment's 1st Battalion was activated.

In 1940 the 22d sent soldiers to the Regular Army maneuvers in Louisiana, consolidated the regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, conducted training, and performed garrison duties. When not on maneuvers, soldiers not on duty had all of Sunday, as well as Wednesday and Saturday afternoons free. Soldiers spent little time on tactical training outside the limited annual Regimental "Chief of Infantry's

	Disease	Nonbattle Injury	Battle injury or wound	Total Daily admissions per 1,000
Continental US	27.06	4.24	.01	31.31
Europe	26.52	9.77	32.44	68.73
Iceland and Alaska	19.91	5.65	.93	26.49

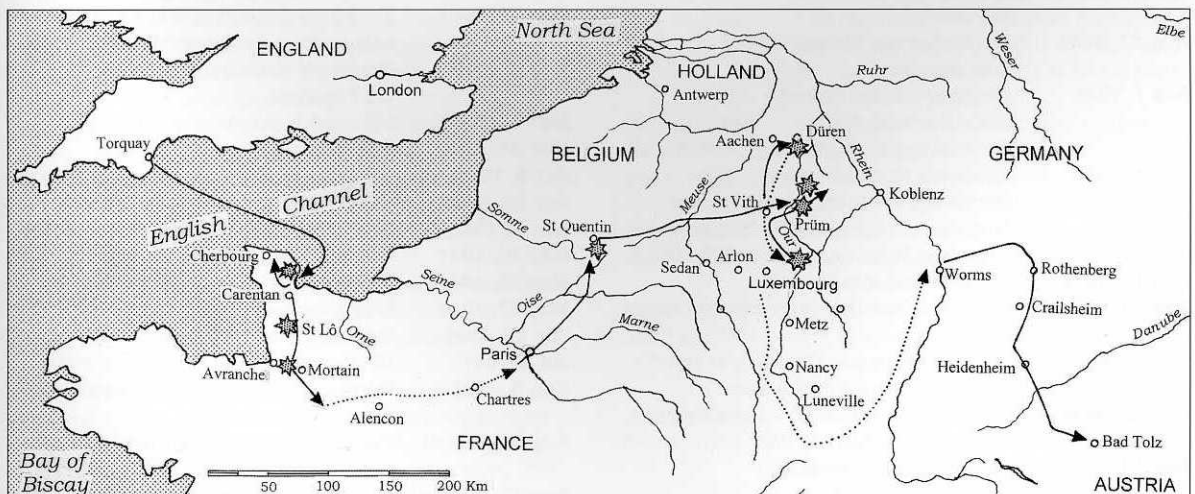
ABOVE TOP **1940 Regular Army maneuvers. Infantrymen in M1918 pattern helmets, puttees and with M1903 Springfield rifles charge through dense smoke.**

ABOVE BOTTOM **Daily Average Noneffective Rate (per 1,000 strength).**

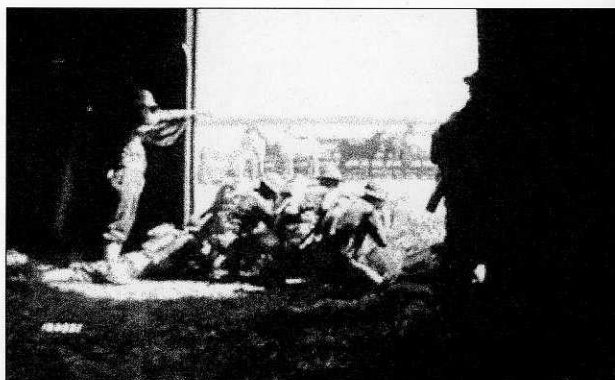
BELOW **The route of the 22d Infantry in the ETO.**

Combat Team" competition.

The regiment fought in the maneuvers of 1940 and 1941, trained as a motorized regiment at Forts Benning and Gordon, demotorized at Fort Dix, New Jersey and went through amphibious training at Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida. The 22d sailed on the British ship *Capetown Castle*, arrived in Britain on January 18, 1944 and continued training there until June 6, 1944 when, along with the other regiments of the 4th, they assaulted Utah Beach, Normandy, France. From that period until March 14, 1945, the 22d was in almost continuous combat, fighting from the beaches to Cherbourg, the hedgerows, the St Lô breakout, Avranches, Paris, the Hürtgen Forest, the Ardennes Campaign, and Prüm. Returning



to combat for the final month of the war, the 22d fought its final battles along the River Isar, south of Munich. The 22d departed Europe on July 3, 1944 for a short period of rest in the United States and eventual shipment to the Pacific as part of the invasion scheduled for Japan. The Pacific War ended with the 22d still at Camp Butner, North Carolina where it was inactivated on March 1, 1946, only to be reactivated on July 15, 1947.



1941 maneuvers, a rifle squad defends a barn. They now wear M1938 leggings and carry the M1928 haversack.

CHRONOLOGY

During the 1930s and '40s, most people received their information about the United States slipping nearer to war through reading their town or city newspaper, and by listening to the ever-present radio. When war arrived, as long as soldiers remained in the States, they listened to the radio and read civilian magazines. After shipping overseas soldiers continued to read the many magazines sent to them, as well as the European edition of the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, *Yank Magazine*, and listened to the BBC and German radio.

Jan 30, 1933	Adolf Hitler appointed German Chancellor.	Apr 9, 1940	Germans seize Denmark and invade Norway.
Oct 1, 1933	Hitler announces withdrawal of Germany from the League of Nations.	May 10, 1940	Germany invades Low Countries.
Jun 30, 1934	'Night of the Long Knives' in Germany.	May 14, 1940	Netherlands surrenders.
Mar 1, 1935	Hitler decrees universal military service for Germany.	May 26–June 4, 1940	Allied evacuation at Dunkirk.
Oct 3, 1935	Italians invade Ethiopia.	May 28, 1940	Belgium capitulates to Germans.
Mar 7, 1936	Germans reoccupy Rhineland.	Jun 9, 1940	Norway surrenders.
Jul 17, 1936	Outbreak of Spanish Civil War.	Jun 22, 1940	France signs armistice with Germany.
Mar 12, 1938	German Anschluss of Austria.	Jun 26, 1940	First US embargo on war trade with Japan.
Sep 29–30, 1938	Munich Conference.	Aug 15, 1940	Eagle Day – Battle of Britain.
Mar 1, 1939	Germans enter Prague, Czechoslovakia.	Aug 27, 1940	Authorization for Federalization of National Guard for 12 months.
Mar 28, 1939	Madrid falls to Franco's forces – end of Spanish Civil War.	Sep 3, 1940	US-British destroyers bases deal.
Mar 31, 1939	British Government abandons appeasement policy, announces aid to Poland.	Sep 7, 1940	"Blitz" on London begins.
Aug 23, 1939	Soviet-German Nonaggression Pact signed.	Sep 16, 1940	Selective Service Act signed.
Sep 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland – World War II begins.	Sep 23, 1940	Discharge granted for EM who were the sole support for dependents.
Sep 8, 1939	Marshall becomes US Army Chief of Staff.	Nov 5, 1940	Roosevelt elected to third term as US President.
Sep 17, 1939	Roosevelt signs emergency proclamation expanding the Regular Army from 210,000 to 237,000, and increasing National Guard to 235,000.	Mar 11, 1941	US Lend-Lease Act signed.
Sep 29, 1939	Soviets move into Poland.	Mar 24, 1941	Axis (Rommel) takes El Agheila.
Sep 29, 1939	Soviet-German Boundary and Friendship Treaty signed.	Apr 6, 1941	Germans invade Balkans.
Nov 3, 1939	US Congress passes "cash and carry" amendment to Neutrality Laws.	Apr 23, 1941	Greek Army surrenders to Germans.
Nov 30, 1939	Soviets invade Finland – beginning of Soviet-Finnish (Winter) War.	May 2, 1941	British complete evacuation from Greece.
Mar 12, 1940	Finland capitulates, ending Soviet-Finnish War.	May 20, 1941	Germans invade Crete.
		May 22, 1941	British withdraw from Crete airfields.
		May 27, 1941	<i>Bismarck</i> sunk.
		Jun 22, 1941	Germany invades USSR.
		Jul 5, 1941	US forces begin occupying Iceland.
		Aug 5, 1941	Germans eliminate Soviet resistance in Smolensk pocket.
		Aug 9–12, 1941	Roosevelt and Churchill meet at Atlantic Conference.
		Aug 17, 1941	Germans take Kiev.

Sep 1, 1941	Germans complete investment of Leningrad.		
Dec 7, 1941	Pacific War begins with Japanese attacks on US and British posts.	Aug 1, 1944	US 12th Army Group becomes operational in France.
Dec 8, 1941	United States declares war on Japan.	Aug 7, 1944	Germans in Normandy begin counterattack toward Avranches.
Dec 11, 1941	Germany and Italy declare war on United States.	Aug 12, 1944	German counterattack at Avranches ends in failure.
Dec 19, 1941	Hitler assumes personal command of German Army.	Aug 15, 1944	Allies land in southern France (Operation Dragoon).
Jan 1, 1942	United Nations Declaration signed.	Aug 19, 1944	US Third Army reaches River Seine.
Jun 18, 1942	Churchill arrives in Washington DC for meetings.	Aug 20, 1944	Canadian, First Army forces seal Germans in Falaise-Argentan pocket.
Jul 1-17, 1942	First battle of El Alamein begins.	Aug 23-28, 1944	US Seventh Army battles Germans at Montélimar.
Aug 19, 1942	Canadian and British force raids Dieppe	Aug 25, 1944	Paris liberated. 4th Division enters Paris from south. 22d Infantry establishes bridgehead across the Seine south of Paris.
Oct 23-Nov 4, 1942	Second battle of El Alamein.		
Nov 3, 1942	Axis begins retreat at El Alamein.	Sep 4, 1944	British Second Army takes Antwerp.
Nov 8, 1942	Allies land in Northwest Africa (Operation Torch).	Sep 8, 1944	First V-2 rocket falls on England.
Nov 19, 1942	Russians open counteroffensive at Stalingrad.	Sep 11, 1944	Allied Normandy and southern France invasion forces meet near Dijon.
Jan 14-23, 1943	Allied Casablanca Conference.	Sep 12, 1944	Second Allied Quebec Conference opens.
May 7, 1943	Axis forces in northeast Tunisia surrender unconditionally.	Sep 14, 1944	4th Div penetrates West Wall in the Schnee Eifel.
Jul 10, 1943	Allies invade Sicily.	Sep 17, 1944	First Allied Airborne Army units dropped in Holland (Operation Market).
Aug 14-24, 1943	First Quebec Conference.	Oct 2, 1944	US First Army assaults West Wall.
Aug 17, 1943	Axis resistance ends in Sicily.	Oct 21, 1944	US First Army occupies Aachen.
Sep 3, 1943	Allies land on Italian mainland. Italians surrender.	Nov 7, 1944	Roosevelt elected to fourth term as US President.
Sep 8, 1943	Allies land at Salerno, Italy.	Nov 16, 1944	US First and Ninth Armies open offensive to clear Roer plain.
Nov 22-26, 1943	Allied Conference, Cairo.		4th Div, attacks on broad front attacks into the Hürtgen Forest.
Nov 28-30, 1943	Allied Big Three begin Teheran Conference.	Nov 23, 1944	French armored force enters Strasbourg.
Dec 1, 1943	Allies begin assaults on Winter Line in Italy.	Nov 29, 1944	22d Infantry in frontal and flanking attacks supported by armor, takes Grosshau and cuts the road to Gey.
Jan 16, 1944	Eisenhower assumes duties as Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force.		4th Div is relieved by 83d Division in the Hürtgen and moves to quiet sector in Luxembourg.
Jan 22, 1944	US Fifth Army lands at Anzio.	Dec 3, 1944	US Third Army completes capture of Metz.
Feb 13, 1944	Combined Chiefs of Staff order intensive bomber offensive against Germany.	Dec 13, 1944	Germans attack in Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge); 106th Div 28th Div, 9th Armcd Div, and elements of 4th Div all fall back under enemy onslaught.
May 23, 1944	US Fifth Army breaks out at Anzio beachhead.	Dec 16, 1944	US Third Army armored relief column reaches Bastogne.
Jun 4, 1944	US Fifth Army enters Rome.		Germans launch offensive (Operation Nordwind) against US Seventh Army.
Jun 6, 1944	Allies invade Normandy (Operation Overlord); 4th Infantry Division lands on Utah Beach.	Dec 26, 1944	Major Soviet winter offensive opens.
Jun 13, 1944	First V-1 bomb falls on England.	Jan 1, 1945	Allied counteroffensive reduces German bulge in Ardennes.
Jun 14, 1944	4th Division captures Quinéville.	Jan 12, 1945	Soviet Army takes Warsaw.
Jun 25, 1944	Elements of the 4th Division enter Cherbourg.	Jan 16, 1945	4th Division attacks north across the River Sauer and reaches the Our River between Longsdorf and Hosdorf.
Jul 3, 1944	US First Army opens "Battle of the Hedgerows" in Normandy.	Jan 17, 1945	Hungary signs armistice with Allies.
Jul 6, 1944	4th Division begins its attack toward Périers.	Jan 18, 1945	4th Division breaches outer defenses of West Wall along the Schnee Eifel ridge northeast of Brandscheid.
Jul 17, 1944	Rommel severely wounded in strafing attack.	Jan 20, 1945	
Jul 18, 1944	British Second Army opens offensive in Caen area (Operation Goodwood).	Feb 4, 1945	
Jul 20, 1944	German Army officers attempt to assassinate Hitler.		
Jul 25, 1944	US First Army breaks out at St Lô (Operation Cobra); 4th Infantry Division as part of VII Corps attacks across Périers-St Lô road on narrow front. 22d Infantry attached to 2d Armored Division		

Feb 4–12 1945	Yalta Conference.	Apr 20, 1945	US Seventh Army takes Nuremberg.
Feb 12 1945	4th Div completes capture of Prüm.	Apr 21, 1945	Elements of 4th Division seize Crailsheim.
Feb 13 1945	Budapest falls to Red Army.	Apr 23, 1945	Himmler makes surrender offer to Western Allies; Russians enter Berlin.
Mar 5–7, 1945	US First Army units enter and secure Cologne.	Apr 25, 1945	First US Army and Soviet forces meet near Torgau, splitting Germany in two.
Mar 7, 1945	Troops of US 9th Armored Division cross Rhine on bridge at Remagen.	Apr 25, 1945	United Nations conference opens in San Francisco.
Mar 22, 1945	In surprise action, troops of US Third Army cross Rhine at Oppenheim.	Apr 28, 1945	Mussolini is executed by partisans.
Mar 23, 1945	British Second Army begins crossing Rhine near Rees.	Apr 30, 1945	Hitler dies in bunker; Dönitz is chosen as head of state.
Mar 27, 1945	Last V-2 rocket lands in England.		US Seventh Army takes Munich and elements of 4th Division cross the River Isar in vicinity of Wolfratshausen.
Apr 9, 1945	Allies begin major attack on Gothic Line (Italy).	May 2, 1945	German forces in Italy, the Netherlands, Bavaria, northwestern Germany and Denmark surrender.
Apr 12, 1945	Roosevelt dies; Truman succeeds as US President.		Units of British Second Army reach Baltic and Berlin falls to the Soviet Army.
Apr 13, 1945	Soviets complete capture of Vienna.	May 7, 1945	All German forces surrender unconditionally (0241hrs at Rheims).
Apr 16, 1945	Soviets begin final offensive toward Berlin.	May 8, 1945	Proclaimed V-E Day.
Apr 18, 1945	US Third Army troops enter Czechoslovakia.		
	US forces complete Ruhr operations, taking more than 300,000 prisoners.		

INDUCTION, PREWAR AND POST-PEARL HARBOR TRAINING

The Draft

Joseph listened throughout August and September 1940 as Congress debated the nation's first peacetime conscription law that called for able-bodied men to serve 12 months of active duty, followed by ten years in the reserves. Joseph was over 21 and, like many others his age, knew that being single, in good health, literate, and working only part-time, qualified him as a prime candidate for what might come. On October 16, with the law's passage, Joseph along with 16,000,000 other men aged 21–35 – including foreign nationals who desired to be citizens – formed long lines outside schools, government buildings and polling places to register for the draft. There was little discord, for although the United States was not at war, most people, including those being drafted, supported the peacetime draft.

After registration, each man received his draft number from his local draft board; each man's number was unique within his registration area. On October 29, Joseph listened as the radio broadcast the first National Lottery. Of the 9,000 numbers announced, the number 158 was the first number called; Joseph's number, 6685, was the fifth.

Within a few weeks, Joseph received an eight-page questionnaire; when it was completed it assisted the draft board in properly classifying him. Although he had been at City College in 1939 and 1940, Joseph did not re-register for 1941 because of his uncertainty of being drafted. There were no blanket deferments for school; however, college students registered for 1940–41 were deferred so they might finish the school year. Joseph passed all the tests and the initial physical screening given by his draft board, and received his draft card with the classification of I-A, which seemed quite an honor considering how many failed to meet prewar standards.

Class I meant the selectee was available for training and service after the physical examination; Class II, available for training and service but temporarily deferred; Class III, persons with dependents; Class IV, persons who were exempted by statute, non-declared aliens, conscientious objectors, were physically, mentally, or morally unfit for service, or had completed military service. The classes further subdivided with Class I-A for those found physically fit to Class IV-F for those found physically, mentally, or morally unfit for service.

When Joseph learned he was leaving for service in February 1941, his family and friends acted almost as if he were going back to college. This was still peacetime, and although his parents were a bit concerned, they felt it would be good for him to get the fresh air, and see the country outside New York.

On the day Joseph reported for induction, he dressed in suit and tie, packed his underclothes and shaving essentials and took the subway to the recruiting station. He noticed that most of the men standing in line, waiting for the doors to open were his age or older. Later he found that all were single; the vast majority was literate, some were from the performing arts or in other professions not seen as contributing to the economy (see Warrior 53 for a detailed description of the screening process.) Some of the men had just arrived in the United States from Europe. Joseph took yet another physical, this time by Army physicians, and a mental classification test. Of the 84 men standing in line, 70 were selected. Then they stood in a line in alphabetical order to receive their serial numbers: brothers were separated so their numbers were not sequential. As draftees, their numbers began with 3204 – the first 3 represented inductees of the Army of the United States (when 1,000,000 men were drafted from the area it became a four), then a 2 representing the 2d Corps Area comprised of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, and the 04 representing the fact that they were among the first 45,000 soldiers drafted from the area (see Warrior 45 for National Guardsmen and Warrior 53 for Regular Army enlistees.)

Joseph, and the others then raised their right hands to repeat the oath of enlistment:

“I_____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever; and that I will obey the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me according to the rules and Articles of War.”

From the induction station, and others like it in New York City, Joseph and the other inductees traveled to Camp

How to read World War II era AUS (draftee) serial numbers. Arizona (AZ) appears twice as it was split between two service areas.

AUS	3, 4	
		The first draftees carried a 3 as their first number: once one million men from the same corps area were assigned Army serial numbers, the first digit changed to a 4. The second through eighth digit was allocated by Service Command. The lower the number, normally the earlier the entry onto active duty.
	1	1st Corps Area (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT)
	2	2d Corps Area (NJ, DE, NY)
	3	3d Corps Area (PA, MD, VA, DC)
	4	4th Corps Area (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, TN, MS, LA)
	5	5th Corps Area (OH, WV, IN, KY)
	6	6th Corps Area (IL, MI, WI)
	7	7th Corps Area (MO, KS, AR, IA, NB, MN, ND, SD, WY)
	8	8th Corps Area (TX, OK, CO, NM, AZ)
	9	9th Corps Area (WA, OR, ID, MT, UT, NV, CA, AZ)

Upton on Long Island, where they were issued old musty World War I blouses, baggy pants, and wraparound puttees, and put into leaky pre-World War I eight-man Sibley tents, to await assignment to units. In February the ground was cold, but not cold enough to freeze the mud surrounding the tents. The food was plentiful but poorly cooked, and the new recruits quickly grew impatient.

After about a week at Camp Upton, the new recruits undertook more physicals, this time from doctors from the 4th Division located down South. Joseph knew that he and the other new recruits could not have looked less martial with their long hair and dirty clothing. Yet, he was one of 5,000 who boarded a train for the trip to Fort Benning, Georgia.

As soon as the train arrived the new recruits were fed, classified, and assigned to different divisional organizations. Joseph found himself classified as an infantryman assigned to a company in the 2d Battalion – 22d Infantry. Once assigned the men received their clothing issue, which included blue denim work uniforms, khaki field uniforms, and olive drab dress uniforms, and were divided into training companies. With no replacement training camps yet organized, the task of molding these civilians into soldiers fell to the regulars in the regiment, with every company providing a small cadre to basically train the recruits before joining their companies.

Every soldier also received a small blue book titled *Soldier's Handbook* with a drawing of the 22d Coat of Arms on the cover, which explained many of the rudiments of being a soldier. Inside was a description of the Coat of Arms, the regimental motto, "Deeds Not Words," a short history of the regiment, and 32 chapters on subjects ranging from the Articles of War, drill, and map reading to personal hygiene and care of feet. NCOs cautioned the new soldiers to study the book well.

The training Joseph and his comrades received in the training unit followed that of the 1940 mobilization plan, except that unit training was accomplished within their assigned units (see Warriors 45 and 53 for detailed descriptions of individual training.) The sergeants were very demanding and after demonstrating each step insisted that every task be done correctly and by the manual – even if there might be a quicker or better method to do



The "kitchen police"; these draftees wear the 1940 pattern blue-denim work uniforms, while their Regular Army mentors wear khakis.

Soldiers in first pattern Herringbone twill (HBT) uniforms check their equipment. The equipment has been laid out exactly in accordance with page 134 of the 22d Infantry *Soldier's Handbook*.



something. It appeared to Joseph that the sergeants knew every regulation by heart, although he noted that they never failed to refer to the regulations when there was a question.

Sergeants knew their names by the first day; most were hard taskmasters but many took the time to explain a procedure. Everyone quickly learned the quirks of the different NCOs. Joseph found to his chagrin that getting on the bad side of his barracks' sergeant meant additional hours cleaning the latrine when he could have been at the enlisted men's club.

The recruits were issued brand new M1 rifles, and Joseph learned early on how to load the clip-fed weapon. The sergeant described and demonstrated the proper procedures, then watched as Joseph and his comrades practiced loading and unloading their rifles, with the occasional expletive when thumbs were smashed between bolt and receiver, the dreaded "M1 thumb" and mark of a rookie. Holding his rifle in his left hand, Joseph hooked his right forefinger over the operating rod handle and pulled it to the rear until it caught on the operating rod catch. Then with his right hand he inserted a clip of eight cartridges into the magazine, carefully forcing the clip down onto the clip latch with his right thumb. The engagement of the latch automatically released the operating rod and bolt to slam forward into the receiver. Joseph learned to swing his thumb to the right as soon as the bolt began to move forward, while at the same time pushing forward with the heel of his right hand on the operating rod handle to assist the bolt in stripping and chambering the first round in the clip.

To fire the M1 he had to squeeze the trigger for each shot; the empty clip automatically ejected out of the receiver with a "ping," upward to the right, while the bolt remained open, ready to receive another clip. Joseph was amazed that with a little practice he could load and fire 20–30 rounds a minute, and had observed one of his instructors fire five clips at a target at 100 yards (91m) hitting it with nearly every round.

It was nearly May when Joseph and the other inductees finally joined the companies that they would be with for the next eight months, with maneuvers on the horizon. He found that many of the older regulars in his company were from Alabama and Georgia, the states in which the 22d had been stationed since the 1920s. He also noted though that many of those who had enlisted during 1940 were from the Midwest, and that with the first shipment of draftees from New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, this was a dynamic mixture to reflight the Civil War.

Nearly all NCOs were old time regulars; many of the corporals had ten or more years of service and the sergeants more. Joseph noticed some didn't have much schooling, but they displayed absolute mastery when field-stripping a weapon,

Soldiers in HBTs practice the position of "Port Arms" with M1903 Springfield rifles. The soldier on the left wears the stripes of a Technician 5th Class.



demonstrating how to roll their pack, laying out equipment for an inspection, or any of the other tasks required of an infantryman. There were also distinct cultural differences between the regulars and the civilians in their midst. It seemed tradition and procedure counted more than anything else did. Joseph and his fellow draftees listened with some amazement at the use of the third person in addressing the officers, although they quickly learned that it was not a sign of subservience but of tradition. There seemed different spheres within the Army; the officers of whom they saw very little, noncommissioned officers who lived away from the barracks or in the rooms at the end of the halls, and all the others who shared the large barracks rooms. Even with the camaraderie of the barracks, at times Joseph didn't think the regulars treated him and the other draftees like real soldiers.

Training

There were initially no training plans for motorized forces, and Joseph's leaders improvised as they went along. There was no idea of fighting mounted; the motorization, even with halftracks, was meant to move troops rapidly from one point to another on the battlefield.

Most of the motorized road marches along Fort Benning's rudimentary roads were in dust so thick that the drivers could not see the vehicles in front of them, and there was more than one accident. All Joseph and his comrades in the back did was eat dust and bump along from one point on the map to another, really having no idea where they were going. Many of the draftees with mechanical aptitude became mechanics and learned through intense training from experts how to maintain their vehicles. However nice it sounded never to have to walk, Joseph detested the motor pool and vowed never to drive.

There was a shortage of equipment even for Joseph's Regular Army unit because most of what they initially had went overseas to support Britain. With mortars, antitank guns, and machine guns in short supply there was a lot of make-do: the soldiers trained and maneuvered with simulated equipment. His regiment was motorized during the Louisiana maneuvers only through borrowing vehicles from other divisions, and his squad rode in a 1932 Ford weapons carrier. Over time new equipment, such as the M2A1 halftrack and other vehicles, as well as machine guns, mortars, and radios arrived bringing the unit to authorized equipment strength.

M2 Halftrack personnel car.



During the Carolina maneuvers, Joseph's division teamed with the 1st and 2d Armored Divisions in the Red IV Motorized Corps against the Blue First Army and fought what they called the battle of Monroe. In a civilian city in North Carolina, the streets were filled with halftracks, and white smoke from grenades and smoke pots, while soldiers fought hand-to-hand

for street intersections; the only ammunition they carried was blanks. Umpires raised red flags during the night, halting the battle and leaving the town half red and half blue.

After the maneuvers, there was little inclination to hurry or correct their deficiencies, as there was still time in 1942 before they were discharged. There were few restrictions after hours, and with a pass in hand soldiers changed into civilian clothes to go downtown. It wasn't until 1942 that haircut regulations changed to a more cropped military look and soldiers were required to wear uniforms at all times. In early 1941, everyone not on duty received Wednesday afternoons off. Asking one of the regulars why, Joseph was told that it came from 1933 when President Roosevelt had enacted the Austerity Plan, which cut the soldiers' salary by ten percent. The Wednesday afternoon, or ten percent of the week, was given off to make up for the pay cut. Once Congress restored pay to the 1932 levels, they began working the full week. The raise to \$50 in September 1942 was quite a boon for privates; unfortunately, the day after they received their pay rise, Joseph and his comrades noticed a jump in prices in the businesses just outside the post gate.

On pass and while on post, Joseph and some of the others from up north were struck by the separate but equal policy regarding the races. Some restaurants served only whites, while others had rooms for "Colored's Only." The trains and buses were the same. Joseph was once on an Army bus that had all the rear seats filled with African American soldiers, however; the bus driver refused to pick up any more even though many of the seats up front were empty. It didn't seem right to Joseph that these soldiers, wearing the same uniform, were treated differently. Others in his company didn't see the problem.

Joseph, like many of the other draftees, made little effort to get promoted, preferring to remain a private for the months remaining in service. He had no decisions to make because sergeants made them for him, and had few obligations outside his own personal sphere. On August 18, 1941, draftees younger than 28 had their yearlong tour extended an additional six months, while those older than 27 were released from active duty.

Along with many of the others, Joseph was planning his first furlough to New York for the Christmas Season of 1941. On December 7, 1941, all plans changed. On notification of the attack on Pearl Harbor, arms rooms opened to issue ammunition and the different companies scattered across Georgia to guard strategic installations and bridges. The United States was at war and they were in a Regular Army outfit, expected to travel overseas at any moment. Instead, at the end of December, Joseph and his comrades packed up their gear and organizational equipment and moved to Camp Gordon, South Carolina, which had been built especially for the 4th Motorized Division, and which would be home for the next 16 months.

After Pearl Harbor, everyone knew they were in for the duration, and those not yet drafted understood they soon would be. Those recently released were recalled, and on December 20, 1941, the draft was extended to those aged 20 to 45; and on November 13, 1942, altered from 18 to 38.

Beginning almost immediately in 1942, drafts of trained men began departing the regiment as cadre for other regiments, which meant promotions for those leaving and for those who assumed their positions in the regiment. Most of the regular officers and many of the NCOs went

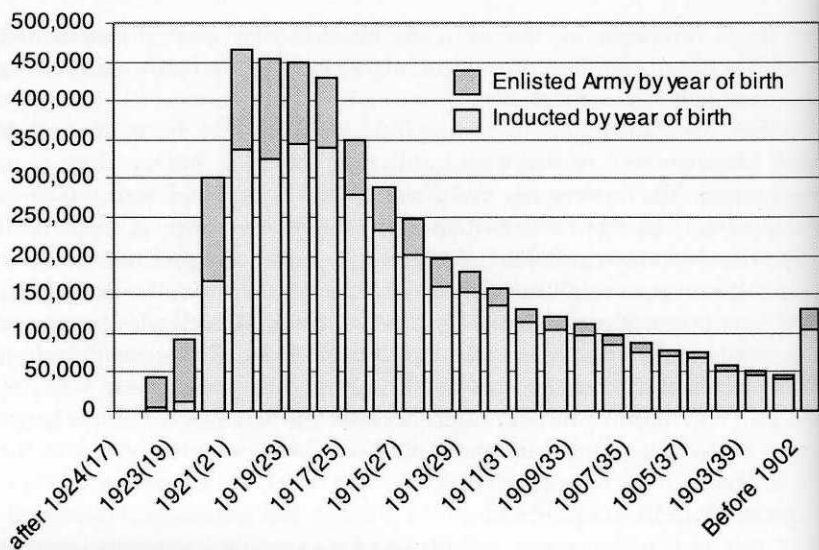
to other units. By mid-to-late 1942 there was perhaps one regular officer in a company, and many of the squad leaders and some of the platoon sergeants were draftees or those who had enlisted through 1940–41. Although most had been in service just over a year, they had learned well from the old regular NCOs who had led and taught them by example. In late 1942, officers from OCS began arriving to the regiment; some had been in the regiment earlier as enlisted men.

For the two years after Pearl Harbor Joseph and his fellow “regulars” trained for combat, with proficiency and tactical tests from platoon through battalion level seemingly every month – with the requirement to pass each phase before progression to the next. Included at platoon level were proficiency tests based on the directives for tactical training in FM 7–10 Rifle Company that evaluated security on the march, the approach march, security during halts, tactical march, security in defense, attack as support, continuation of attack, hasty occupation of defensive positions, defense, defense as support, relief of front line platoons, daylight withdrawal, night attack, night patrol, and attack in woods; all logically sequenced into a scenario.

Long road marches broke up the different series of exercises. Soldiers went without sleep, and men became proficient in weapons manipulation and maneuver. With each stay in the field, Joseph and his comrades learned more about basic survival in the field, such as shaving with hot breakfast coffee when there was no water or how to ditch a tent so that one slept reasonably dry during a hard rain, as well as the tactics they were practicing.

On one two-day proficiency test, Joseph’s company – a weary, mud-caked, unsmiling bunch – marched 35 miles (56 km) mostly in rain, and spent the night in water to their ankles in a swamp. He vaguely remembered putting his haversack against a tree and trying to sleep while mosquitoes attacked like swarms of dive-bombers. At 0300 hrs, the sergeant woke those asleep and they moved out on a compass direction, wading a wide creek with mud coming to the knees, until they reached the company attack position. Artillery fire “crumped” in the distance.

Joseph’s platoon objective was a hill 600 yards (546m) away. As the warming sun rose, they watched as artillery and the heavy and light machine guns fired indirectly, impacting on the hill. The platoon leader whistled and the squads moved out in tactical formation, each trailed by an umpire who at times would give information that demanded a decision or action from the group or individual leader.



US Army accessions and enlistment into the Army by age, 1940–42

As Joseph's squad crossed a large open area the umpire called out "for the last minute the squad has been subjected to heavy machine gun fire from the hill to the front right" and designated one man as a casualty. Joseph and his comrades went to ground dragging the wounded man under cover. The umpire announced "the machine gun's silent" when every man was under cover. The squad then slipped right and continued the move forward. As the squad maneuvered near the objective, the umpire announced, "a shell strikes 300 yard (273m) in front of you," a minute later, "a shell impacts 100 yards (91m) behind you," which suggested to the squad that they had been bracketed, and that the next round would land near them. The squad leader pumped his arm up and down to signify double time and pointed to the front right. Once the squad had run out of the impact area, Joseph and his comrades reformed and continued onward.

Once in the last covered and concealed location near the objective, Joseph's platoon leader designated one squad to provide support while the other two maneuvered. Then the umpire announced there was an oily liquid on the grass and an unfamiliar odor. Now, instead of launching the attack, the men donned their gas masks and demonstrated how they would use their chemical paper to determine the type of chemical agent. The umpire announced the substance was not a chemical agent. The platoon unmasked and the attack began.

With the support squad firing at the targets on the hill, the two assault squads maneuvered onto the objective and consolidated, reorganized, and set into a hasty defense. Umpires counted the number of holes in the target and announced the percentage of hits by counting the hits against the number of rounds fired. Afterward the senior umpire briefed the platoon on its successes and failures. A failure meant that the platoon would perform another permutation of the attack, while success allowed the platoon to progress to other tasks. After a trip back to the barracks to clean self and equipment and to get a warm meal, it was back to the field.

The road marches were equally as hard. Although motorized, gas rationing hit Joseph and his fellow soldiers hard: instead of riding vehicles to the different ranges, they now marched and soldiers experienced countless tactical road marches each from six to 35 miles (9.6 to 56 km), with most being between 12 and 20 miles. Joseph remembered one that was especially grueling: the 25-miler with a full field pack weighing over 85 pounds (38.6 kg). The hot South Carolina sun, with the admonitions not to drink water caused hundreds to fall along the side of the road and was considered by many the worst road march ever. After a few such marches, it became a matter of pride that no one fell out and all canteens remained full. Many times, as an additional incentive, Joseph's company officers had kegs of beer waiting for the parched soldiers at the march completion.

On June 8, 1942 the 4th Division reviewed with all its vehicles for General Marshall and Lord Mountbatten. Joseph and many of the junior enlisted men took a perverse pleasure in being called the sloppiest of the 4th Division's three infantry regiments when on parade, but the best when out on maneuvers. Immediately thereafter, the men set out for the Carolina Maneuvers, for which everyone's haversacks, cartridge belts and leggings were dyed green to blend with the terrain and all wore red armbands showing which side they were on.

Fully combat ready, and by now fully motorized, Joseph and his comrades participated in the Carolina maneuvers in June and July 1942, only to be pulled out to pack their gear for overseas shipment. The alert was a false alarm, as was the order in December 1942, and to many of the soldiers it appeared that all they did was train and provide cadres to other units. The main reason Joseph and his comrades did not deploy overseas early in the war was that the 4th Division contained more than 3,000 vehicles which used almost as much shipping space as an armor division, although lacking the combat power.

The years passed rapidly, and Joseph moved from post to post with the 22d, and he and the other draftees felt the ties to organization that long service makes. Many of Joseph's comrades married their hometown sweethearts or girls in the towns surrounding the camps. With the average age within the regiment at 28 in 1943, most thought they'd never go overseas as a regiment because they were too old, and that they would continue to provide cadres for other units.

In July 1943 after more than two years service, Joseph was a corporal and assistant squad leader, but with every bit of knowledge of a squad leader, since they had all undergone the training together. The most enjoyable assignment for him and many others was Fort Dix, New Jersey, where they were near home; most of the training was on the small unit level, and there were ample passes to New York City and Philadelphia. Platoons went through Ranger training that included live demolitions training, more long road marches, rappelling, breaching wire obstacles, combat in cities, and training assault teams to eliminate fortifications.

On the lighter side, Campbell's Soup factory had large tomato fields in the areas, but no one to pick the fruit. With War Department approval, Joseph and his comrades received permission to assist Campbell's in harvesting the fruit to supplement their wages. Soldiers being soldiers, Joseph and his comrades soon engaged in unit level tomato fights and began calling themselves "tomaterized."

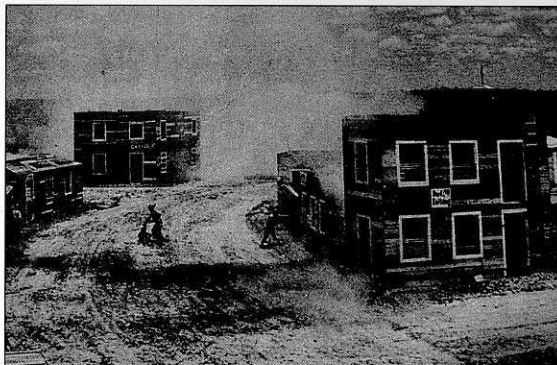
It was at Fort Dix that the 4th Division lost its halftracks and its motorized designation. To Joseph and his comrades it meant more walking, but now the drivers and many of the mechanics were walking with them although still in technicians' grades.

From Fort Dix, they moved to Camp Gordon Johnston, Florida where they practiced amphibious landings. Joseph and his comrades stayed in the water so much that they wanted to turn their boots in for fins. Once they were assigned a beach in heavy weather where they debarked 700

yards (637m) from shore and walked in through surf sometimes up to shoulder height. That exercise merited a commendation from the division commander, and comments from the soldiers of "please, never again." This training also signaled to many that they were being trained for something big. More officers from OCS and trained soldiers from the 83d Division joined as replacements for those who could not keep up with the intensified pace.

In November, although still with no official notice of movement overseas, the division shipped to Fort Jackson, South Carolina where they began boxing equipment for overseas shipment and

Soldiers attack into a mock German village.



spending what they believed to be their last days with the families that had followed them from post to post. In December, they made the move to the overseas staging area at Camp Kilmer where they underwent a final overseas processing and medical examination. In this last session, some of the soldiers that Joseph had known since 1941 were determined unfit for overseas service and were replaced on the spot by soldiers waiting as replacements at Camp Kilmer.

In January 1944, when Joseph's regiment boarded the *Capetown Castle* to sail to England, he like many of the others was nearing the three-year mark within the same company. Although many of the original draftees had departed for new units, more than 70 soldiers in Joseph's company had been together since 1941. At no other time in the past had an army, regular or otherwise, trained so hard and so well over such an extended period before being committed to combat.

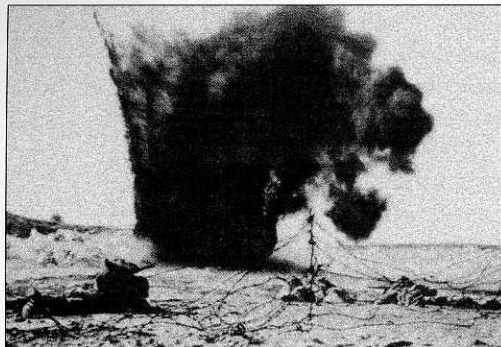
England

HMS *Capetown Castle* was a converted British luxury liner sailing under British Navy rules. In January 1944, it transported almost 5,000 soldiers of the 4th Division to Britain. Joseph had learned from others about the living conditions aboard ship. Officers lived quite well in prewar staterooms, while it seemed the enlisted existed where they might. Joseph's company and another were located on B-deck amidships: 361 men in a small compartment which also served as a mess. It was hard to find a place to sit and many men stayed in their hammocks strung from the ceilings over the tables. They ate their mediocre meals from mess kits twice a day, and there was a canteen which served Cokes and chocolate – until it ran out. The biggest problem for so many soldiers was the small latrine, especially with seasickness, and below decks reeked of men living too closely together. With the cramped conditions and wretched weather, about the only chance for fresh air was the daily abandon-ship drills, where Joseph and his comrades stood breathing in the cold clean air, watching the ocean heave and the convoy stretching as far as the eye could see.

Although Joseph and the other enlisted men had not been told where they were going, many quickly figured it out, noting the ship was heading east into the sunrise. Another sure indicator was the book on British customs the officers distributed to them.

On January 29, Joseph peered out at bomb-damaged Liverpool. The next day they boarded trains for the 12-hour ride to their new camps in southern England. Unlike the United States where the regiment was together on one post, here the different battalions were scattered about at small camps. Joseph's battalion and regimental headquarters were at Denbury, the 1st Battalion at Newton Abbott, and the 3d Battalion and the separate companies at South Brent. The first road marches up and down through the rolling hills brought painful memories to unused muscles. The weather wasn't very cold, but the sky was a constant gray with rain and drizzle, keeping everything damp. Each hut received four pounds of coal per person per night to heat the little stove; the same ration the British lived under, and just enough to take the bite out of the air.

After being issued mattress covers filled with hay, the soldiers filed into closely grouped one-story buildings (they found out later it was an emergency hospital) which were to be their homes while in England. Chow was three times a day from their mess kits, but thankfully was essentially the



Training in the sand at Branton, England. A soldier hunkers low as a dynamite charge explodes only yards away.

reply "34 pubs." In the town they could all see the effects of rationing on the British. There was little to eat in the restaurants and the dances put on at the camp were well attended by the women in the area because there were always refreshments of meat sandwiches and beer. Joseph asked one how much meat she got and was told only a shilling's worth per week. Unfortunately, the soldiers weren't always allowed into town, especially after fights between "colored" and white troops erupted, so the commanders designated different nights for each race to go into town.

It seemed as if those in England didn't know that Joseph and his comrades had been training for three years in the States, and had just finished amphibious training. Nevertheless, they continued with more. There were more squad problems, more weapons training, more camouflage classes, use of artillery and mortars, assault tactics against bunkers using pole charges, the bazooka and the new bee-hive shaped charges. More often on maneuvers, they were hit with surprise situations that required them to improvise: what to do if the leader went down and then the next, or how to take out a masked machine gun located behind barbed wire and mines. Even though combat was nearing, however, Joseph and his comrades only participated part way, with the aside that "we know how to do this, and will do it correctly when the fighting begins."

In late April, Joseph and his comrades participated in a pre-invasion invasion at Slapton Sands on the coast of Devon, southwest of Dartmouth, although they still had no idea of the location they were heading for in France. His platoon was caught in bunched-up and rout stepping down a road by one of the umpires who proceeded to write their unit down on his pad and reprimand them for not taking the maneuvers seriously.

Reorganization continued apace, and those leaders, officers and noncommissioned who didn't measure up were either transferred out, in the officers' case, or demoted in the case of the NCOs. Now with three years in service, Joseph found himself sergeant and assistant squad leader. New replacements from the United States continued to arrive to take the place of those injured during training and his company received an additional 50 men who were to serve as the unit's initial replacements in France. In mid-May the company divided into what would land on D-Day and a residual force, with about 20 percent of the company strength designated to stay behind in England, and those who either were to arrive after D-Day or to serve as a cadre if the company were destroyed.

Soldiers debark an LCVP during pre-invasion training at Slapton Sands, England.



Some of the rifle companies reorganized for the initial assault and reduction of the fortifications into three assault platoons of 60 men each with two assault sections containing two rifle teams, a BAR team, bazooka team, demolitions team, flamethrower team and mortar squad. Two platoons organized with BARs and 2.36-in (60-mm) mortars in the assault sections and the other with heavy machine guns and 81mm (3.16 in.) mortars. After breaching the fortified area they were to reorganize into three rifle and one weapons platoon. Joseph's company was one of those that did not reorganize.

Everyone knew the big day was near when they had to lock their personal effects in footlockers and barracks bags and send them to the personal effects quartermaster in Liverpool. All identification outside dog-tags and ID cards was locked away. On May 18, they foot marched to the heavily guarded marshaling area near the coast – called “sausages” because of its appearance on a map. There Joseph and his comrades waterproofed their gas masks and other equipment, and toward the end of the month they began to enter guarded tents that had sandtables, which were an exact representation of the beach they were to assault. Now they became familiar with the terrain so that they could recognize physical features either by silhouette or by sight. No one other than the officers at battalion and the leading company commanders knew the exact location of the beach, but even they did not know the day or hour of the assault.

While in the marshaling area, Joseph and his comrades received their ammunition, with riflemen receiving 160 rounds to fill their cartridge belts plus an additional bandoleer of ammunition and other equipment required for the landing, as well as the incidentals for themselves: one K and one D ration for use after landing, one safety razor, seven packs of cigarettes, one half-ounce pipe tobacco, 200 safety matches, seven sticks chewing gum, one two-ounce can of insecticide, four one-and-a-half-ounce heating tablets, for water purification one bottle of halazone tablets, and for the voyage across the Channel, ten motion sickness prevention pills – and if those didn't work, two vomit bags. Their lieutenant was the company censor who had the duty of reading all the soldiers' outbound mail for anything of military value, and who used a razor blade to cut out anything he deemed sensitive. Supposedly, he was to disregard anything else – to include derogatory comments about himself. Toward the end, outbound mail was impounded until they had landed in France.

Divine services were held daily for the different faiths, and Joseph and his comrades, who had expressed little interest in religious matters, now felt more of a need. He attended the services the division's Jewish chaplain conducted, while Catholics and Protestants filled the tents of their own chaplains.

Finally, the word came to move from the marshaling area, and Joseph and his comrades loaded closed trucks for the debarkation port. At about 0200 hrs the trucks halted: everyone sat and shivered waiting to move again.

Marching through Torquay toward the landing ships.



Smoking was allowed only in the trucks and any other lights were forbidden. Soldiers from a transportation company passed out sack breakfasts consisting of thick dry slices of English wholewheat bread with cold bologna and a cold, hard, fried egg; accompanied by cups of coffee that was cold and bitter, and so wound up on the ground.

They began loading the LST on May 30, and it was well past midday when Joseph and his squad went aboard and moved into their cramped quarters below deck. Unlike the *Capetown Castle*, officers and men alike crawled into web-laced horizontal bunks barely far enough apart for both the man and his equipment. No men were allowed on deck after they hoisted anchor, so they spent their time going over their assigned roles, as well as impregnating their clothing with a mixture designed to repel the poison gas that everyone expected to be covering the invasion beaches. Each man received a silk escape map of France, a small compass and 200 French Francs as invasion money (which many passed around for everyone to sign as a memento.) With all the necessary out of the way, many of the men settled down to throwing craps and playing blackjack until they had no money left.

There were no hot meals and the men ate the 10-in-1 ration, so named because it contained enough food for ten men. They thought it better than the K ration, with a greater variety, containing canned foods, soluble powdered drink, crackers instead of bread, jelly or jam, canned milk, and khaki colored toilet paper, which received much derision.

On the night of June 4, the LST turned back toward England to ride out a hard storm. The men were keyed up, and Joseph hoped that none of those he'd known for so long would be killed or wounded. He felt nervous about those whose lives now depended upon him and resolved to do the best that he could. The LST turned around again and during the night of June 5, with hundreds of aircraft flying overhead, the men loaded onto LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry) that would take them to the beach at daybreak.

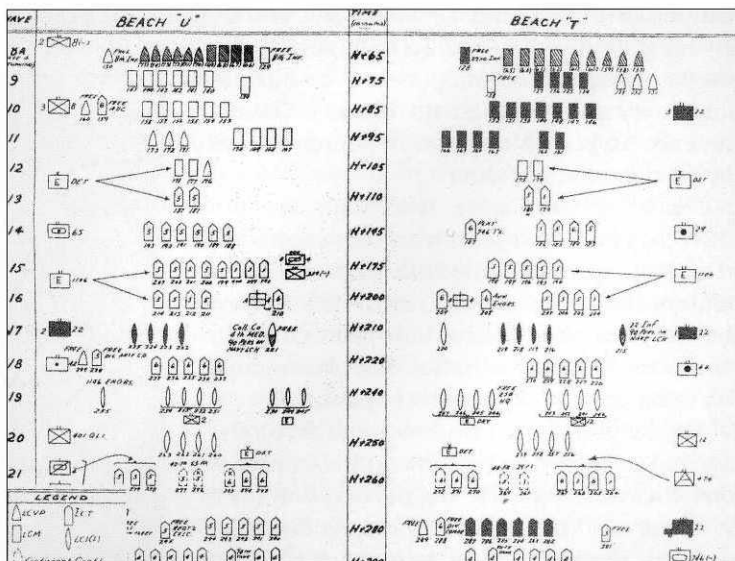


22d Infantry soldiers preparing to sail for Utah Beach.

FIRST BLOOD, NORMANDY JUNE-JULY 1944

On D-Day, Joseph's company contained one Regular Army officer, two reserve officers, and six officers graduated from OCS. Of the 221 enlisted men, there were 16 pre-1940 Regular Army soldiers – eight of whom were NCOs – and 86 pre-Pearl Harbor draftees. The remaining 119 entered service in 1942 and 1943, and joined the company Stateside and while in England.

Formerly classified "Top Secret, Bigot" this is the landing order for Utah Beach. The shaded organizations are the 22d Infantry.





Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) similar to this carried the follow-on waves on D-Day. The landing was not bad, but worse lay inland.

As the LCI headed into shore, aircraft with three white stripes on each wing droned overhead, and Joseph spent his last moments of peace anxiously awaiting the unknown. Although well trained, he felt like a moth flying nearer and nearer a flame. Many times soldiers had been killed or wounded during maneuvers; however, they were always alive again for the next problem. He waved at a small landing craft traveling toward the beach, and watched in stunned surprise when it disappeared under a large plume of water, replaced by men thrashing in the water while other boats raced to rescue them. His LCI landed at H+210, and he walked down the ramp into waist deep water, passing his first dead soldier, who rocked softly in the waves against the beach.

There was some shelling, and at the rumbling sound of the first round someone yelled "incoming" and Joseph launched himself into the sand, only to have the round impact way down the beach, farther away than rounds normally landed during training. A twitter, a sheepish laugh, and the men continued to the beach wall. He and the others knelt in the sand and watched the officers gesturing toward landmarks and pointing to the map, trying to figure out where they were. Joseph had studied the terrain model and knew they were in the wrong area, but had no idea where they had landed.

Instead of moving inland on the heavily congested road, the officers led them over the dunes and into the marsh behind. Joseph's senses were working overtime as he noted the mined areas marked by white engineer tape, as well as baby German tanks filled with explosives sitting motionless in trenches. The water was first ankle, then knee and then crotch deep – soon everything in his HBT pockets was soaked. During the long march that lasted until well after midnight, men exchanged heavy equipment so that everyone was equally tired. The bright moonlight made the night almost like day. From time to time, Joseph heard, and experienced more than once, the feeling of stepping into a bomb crater hidden under the water and completely submerging for the instant it took him to get to the other side. They halted along a bit of high ground, established a perimeter, and soldiers passed into sleep.

By the end of this long day, Joseph bordered on exhaustion – he had awakened early, landed, saw his first dead man, walked for seven hours across the marsh, watched German tracers fly overhead and learned the difference between incoming and outgoing artillery. Joseph quickly learned the unmistakable sound of the German MG34 and MG42 machine guns – their rate of fire so fast they sounded like sewing machines – and the "whiz-bang" of the 88. Up before the dawn, gulping a quick breakfast from the rations remaining from the previous day and ensuring his men rodged their weapons and changed their socks (since everyone was wet from the night before and the gun bores were fouled by the sand); at daybreak they were moving again.

Arriving near their original objective, Joseph's company mission was to clear the mutually supporting German fortifications along the narrow strip of land between the high water mark and the marsh they had waded through. They came upon the first bunker from the marsh side, and while Joseph's platoon provided support, another waded in water almost neck deep toward the rear entrance of the bunker. The

Germans within waited until the Americans were near before they opened up with hidden machine guns, slaughtering those in the water. Joseph and the members of the support platoon immediately began firing but their shots were masked by those struggling in the water, so one of the officers drew fire from those trapped by running along the bank and firing at the bunker with his Thompson submachine gun, while another fired 57mm (2.22 in.) antitank rounds at the position, and the mortars laid smoke so that the few men remaining in the water could retreat.

The next days were similar – with more losses and never a chance to rest and regroup. As an NCO Joseph awoke early, so that he could wake his men and ensure they ate, cleaned their weapons of the carbon build-up from the previous day's action, and changed their dirty wet socks for dirty dry socks. After the day's attack, they dug in for the night, resupplied and rotated on guard duty so that everyone got a little rest. Just about every day Joseph collected one dog tag from the dead (many of whom he had known for years) to give to his platoon sergeant, leaving the other on the body.

About three days into the battle, Joseph's battalion attacked the major fortifications at Azzeville. The four large pillboxes, each mounting a 5.85-in (150-mm) gun and built of six feet of reinforced concrete, were surrounded by smaller machine gun bunkers, barbed wire, and a minefield. Once the naval gunfire ended, the company moved forward with assault teams leading and Joseph's platoon in support. They picked their way through the minefield surrounding the pillbox, eliminating three small bunkers along the way. Joseph's platoon halted along a hedge about 100 yards (91m) further on, while the teams wormed closer. Two assault sections picked their way through the minefield surrounding the position without loss, reducing three small pillboxes along the way and then closed on near a hedgerow about 100 yards (91m) to the rear of the four large pillboxes. Joseph's platoon followed.

With the remaining machine gun positions masked by the nearest bunker's bulk, soldiers with bazookas, along with the one tank that had come up with the company fired several rounds which penetrated only about six to 12 inches. Next, the assault teams ran to the back door, fired their flamethrowers and placed pole charges against it, all of which only dented the door. Then a soldier brought up a 40-lb satchel charge, so powerful that he was knocked unconscious by the blast. The door

remained intact. Joseph's company commander called for Joseph's flamethrower man, the last in the company with any fuel, to go forward. Joseph watched as he fiddled with the igniter while unlit liquid naphtha streamed onto the door; the soldier then bent over, struck a match, lit the stream and flamed the door until he too was out of fuel. It seemed to have no effect and a quiet desperation settled over the group of soldiers with Joseph: they had nothing left to attack the bunker with. A few moments later they heard small arms ammunition popping within the bunker that got louder as the minutes passed. The door opened and a white flag appeared, followed by an

Infantrymen jump off a wall to enter a fortified city. Their entrenching tools are attached to their web belts.



American parachute officer and a German officer who surrendered the fort and 169 men. The battle toll for the day, ten GIs.

The days passed, each as good or as bad as the last, but always with casualties. They'd expected casualties, but nothing like this. Losses mounted among officers and NCOs, however, there were no replacements yet to take their place, and previously unknown leaders stepped forward. With no replacements for the first week, the company steadily grew smaller: sergeants led platoons and privates squads. Joseph felt almost detached from his fate, never knowing who among his group would be hit next; he was resigned to being killed or wounded like the others who had landed with him.

Every soldier could speak about a near miss. One soldier walked around showing off his helmet where a bullet had struck the inside of his helmet liner, cutting it like a band saw, yet not even scratching him. Another showed his Bible and a can of peanut butter that had stopped a killing bullet. Others were not so fortunate, especially those killed by friendly fire, be it artillery or a friend who fired into the night.

Quinéville finally fell on the 12th, the heights surrounding it in the days following. Joseph didn't remember much about the drive on Montebourg, or the pursuit up to the German main line of defense around Cherbourg, except that resupply arrived by tank at night, because roving bands of Germans, who had been cut off, were ambushing supply trucks driving alone. On June 26, Joseph and what remained of his regiment advanced against dug-in German anti-aircraft guns defending Maupertus airfield. They seized it then cleared Cap Lévy. The next day was their first true day of rest.

Soldiers resting in the sun sat by foxholes and listened as chaplains conducted non-denominational services. Joseph prayed more now than he had ever done in his life. He never thought about those friends who had been killed or wounded in days past; there was never any time and he was always bone-tired. But in the solitude of a rear area, he thought back on his last conversation with one of those killed, and remembered that they had talked about the good old days and what he was going to do when the war was over.

It was only when they pulled into reserve and looked around to see how many weren't there that it struck them how fickle Fate was. Joseph felt it was initially only luck during the first days that had kept him from being wounded or killed. He still believed it was luck tempered with a hard won experience. As one of the only NCOs left from pre-D-Day who had not been wounded, men followed him for his experience and his luck, hoping that he would keep them alive. Now he found his men depending on him where once they didn't think twice about questioning his orders.

Between the 6th and 25th, Joseph's company had lost its company commander, six of its seven lieutenants, two first sergeants, five platoon sergeants, 12 staff sergeants, 16 sergeants, and 105 other ranks, and of the above all but 16 had landed on D-Day. Seventy-four replacements, some of them residuals, arrived to fill the empty files. What had taken three years to build was torn asunder in just weeks. His old squad now consisted of four old timers and four

A church service in the field with foxholes nearby.



replacements, and was four short of authorization. His squad leader had been wounded early on and Joseph had taken over. During the period, many of the 35 soldiers promoted, such as the recently promoted first sergeant, had already been wounded, and as one of the few surviving pre-invasion NCOs Joseph found himself promoted to staff sergeant on June 16, and now, just 15 days later, he was a platoon sergeant. However, he did not believe his good fortune would last.

He could not really remember how many men had cycled through his unit, but did remember their quality. The first who had been with the residual shipment were good, but with the heavy losses there was only one left, and the other draft of replacements that arrived late in the month were mostly non-infantrymen who had been assigned because there were no infantrymen left. They had to be quick learners or they weren't around long.

During his time out of the line, Joseph walked to the battalion aid station to visit one of his wounded friends. The aid station was located in a French farmhouse where he saw the family gathered by the fireplace, while dying Americans lay in one room and dying Germans in another. The medics told him his friend had been evacuated to England, and Joseph hoped, out of the war.

Between Cherbourg and Périers

On July 6, after only five days out of the line to rest, refit and train replacements, Joseph and the 22d traveled east to the bocage country near Périers. Again the days merged one into another, and one field was similar to the next. They would seize one field only to be counterattacked, thrown back and then have to attack again to retake the field.

The Germans usually sited machine guns and mortars hidden in each corner to sweep the length of the hedgerows as well as to cross and sweep the open field in front. Since there was no way to tell which hedgerow or which side of the hedgerow the "Krauts" were on, there was really no way to determine which approach was safest.

Joseph watched as his scouts crossed the field, and moved with his platoon in column along both sides of the embankment, which they found more effective than trying to cross in a skirmish line. He could see other platoons doing the same along other parallel hedgerows. The first platoon to reach the next lateral hedgerow would turn left or right to outflank the Germans in position along the embankment, which in turn allowed the other platoons to advance. Joseph thought it almost like playing chess, with each side devising one strategy, and the other working to overcome it.

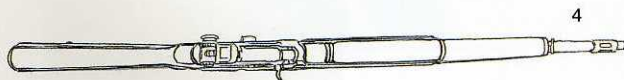
Enemy tanks were another problem, especially when the Shermans could not get off the roads to support the infantry. With only the 2.36-in (60-mm) bazooka to use against Panthers, Mark IVs and SGIIIs, Joseph's men were leery of engaging in what they called "hand-to-hand" combat with a tank.

About the third day in the hedgerows, one tank-supported German counterattack sent Joseph's company scurrying back over the open ground to cover, with the Germans closely following. A 57mm (2.22 in.) gun took out the first tank, while a second

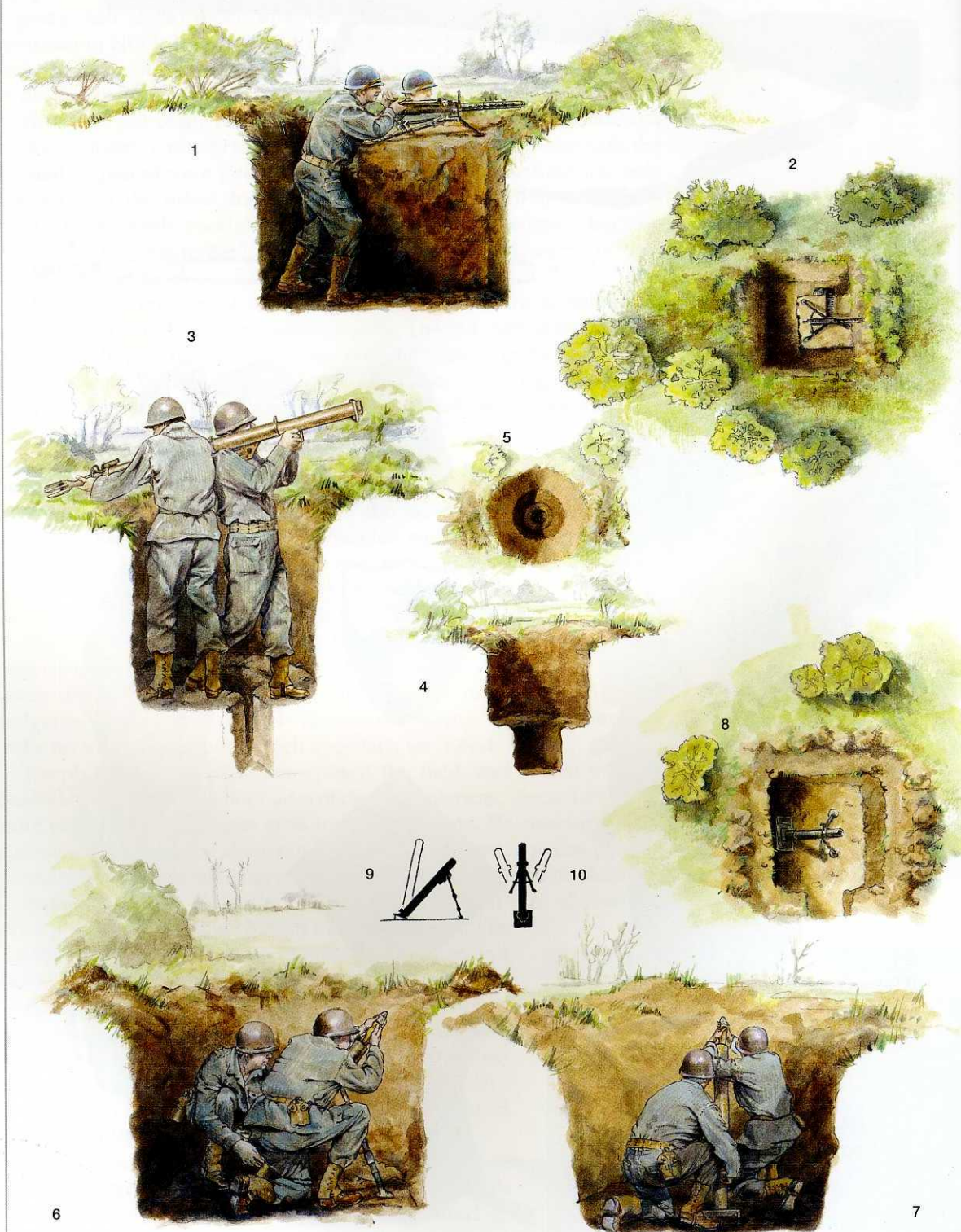
Riflemen behind a hedgerow engage the Germans: two are reloading their M1s as one continues to fire. As became normal in the ETO, soldiers fought without haversacks and bedrolls, hoping that their equipment would arrive after they had gone into defensive positions.



Joseph, Sergeant, 6 June 1944
(see plate commentary
for full details)



Squad weapon positions (see plate commentary for full details)



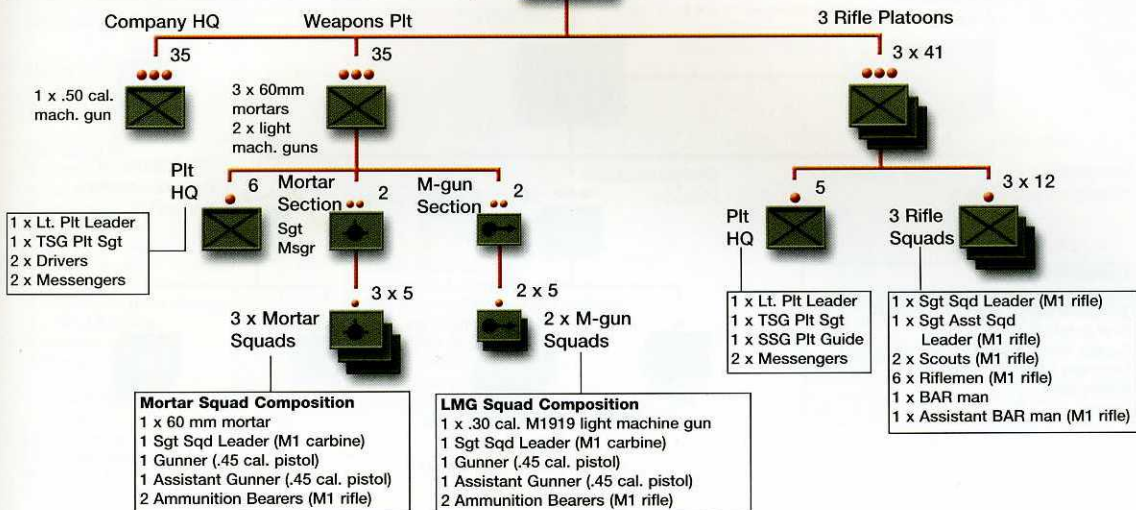
Rifle company, 1944

Company HQ

1 Captain, commanding	1 Company Clerk
1 Exec Officer	1 Armorer Artificer
1 First Sergeant	1 Bugler
1 Mess Sergeant	4 Cooks, 2 Cook's Helpers
1 Supply Sergeant	3 Messengers
1 Communications Sergeant	17 Infantrymen

Rifle company

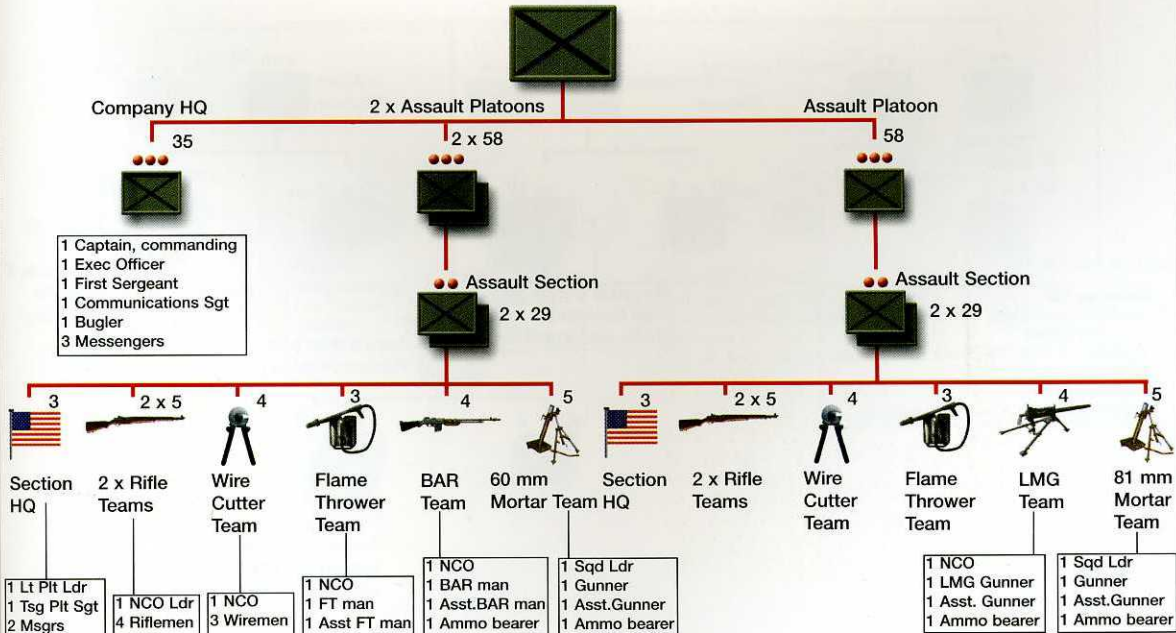
193 men



Assault company June 6, 1944

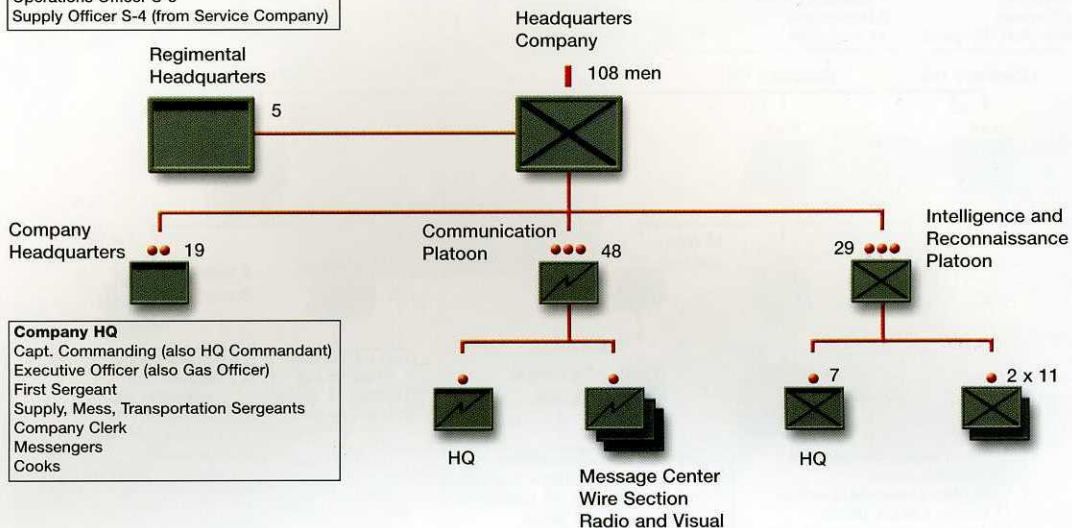
Assault company

209 men

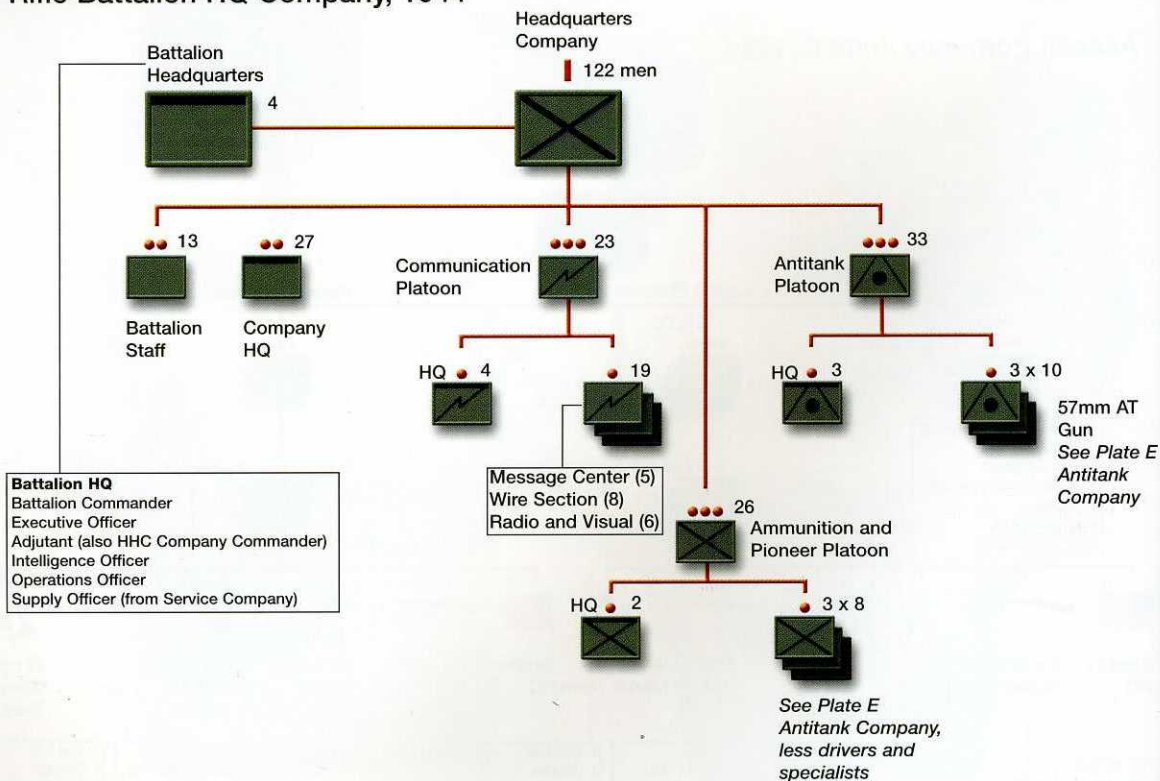


Regimental HQ Company, 1944

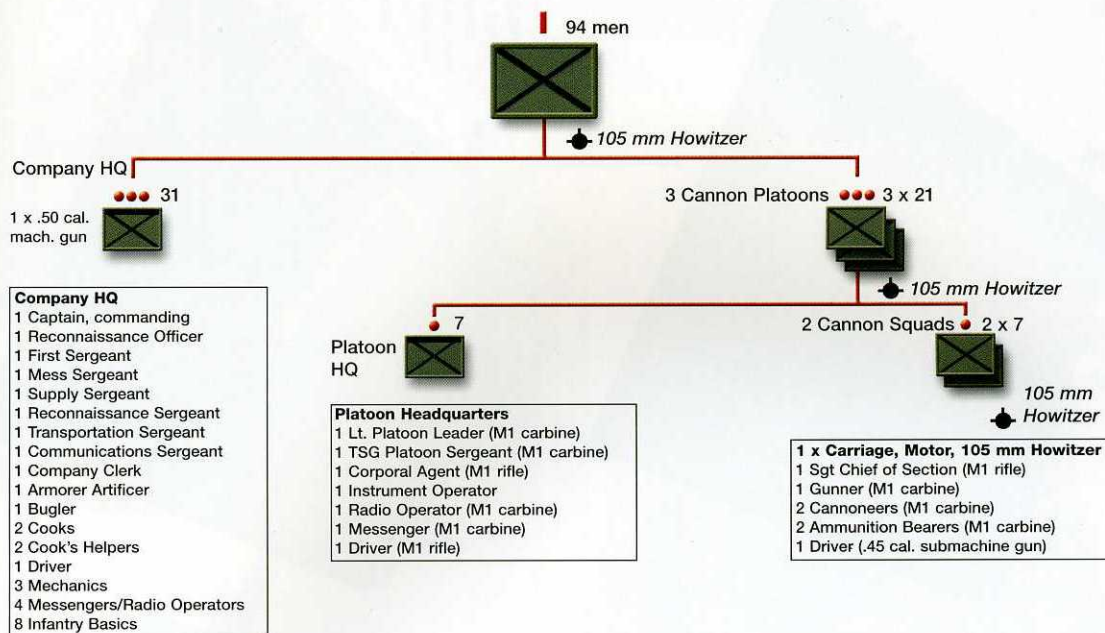
Regimental HQ
 Regimental Commander S-6
 Executive Officer S-5
 Adjutant S-1
 Intelligence Officer S-2
 Operations Officer S-3
 Supply Officer S-4 (from Service Company)



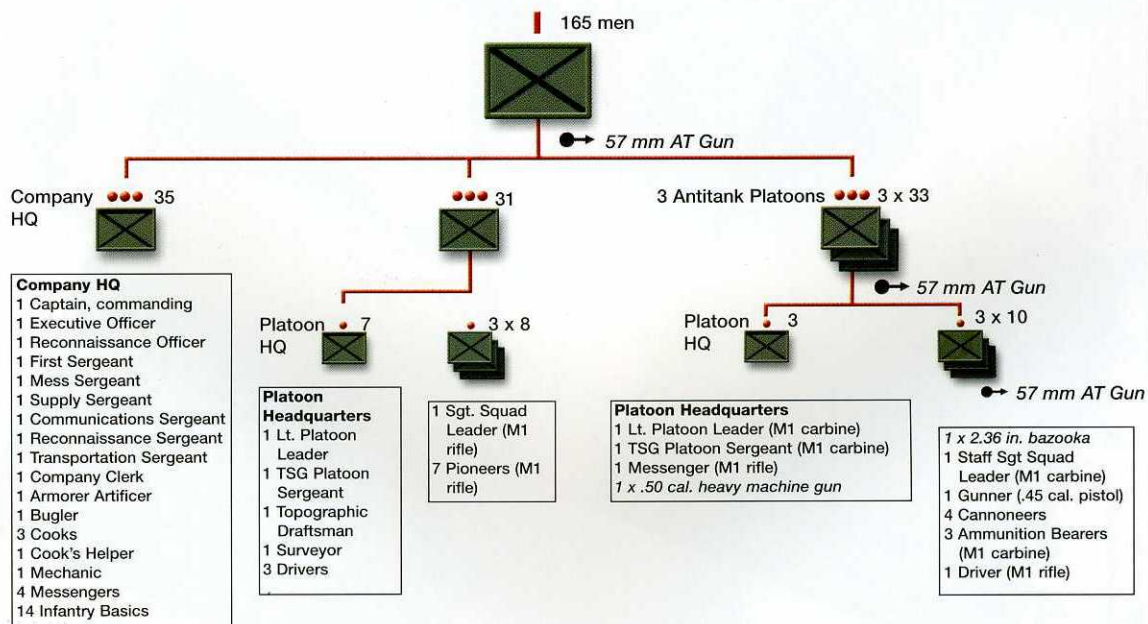
Rifle Battalion HQ Company, 1944



Cannon Company, Self-Propelled, 1944

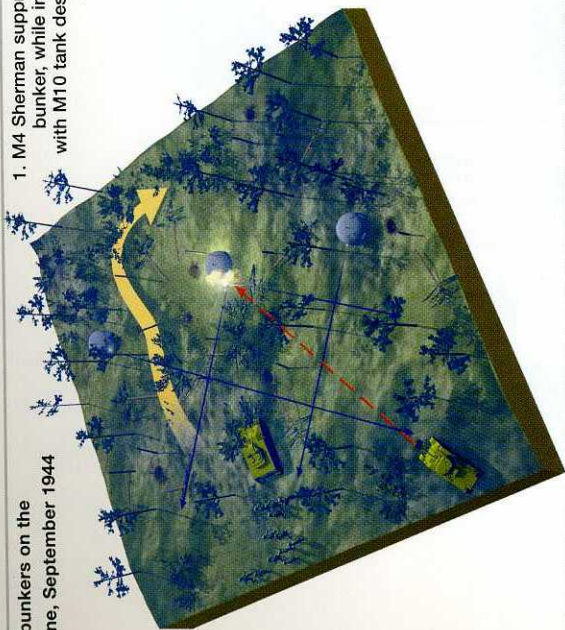


Antitank Company, 1944

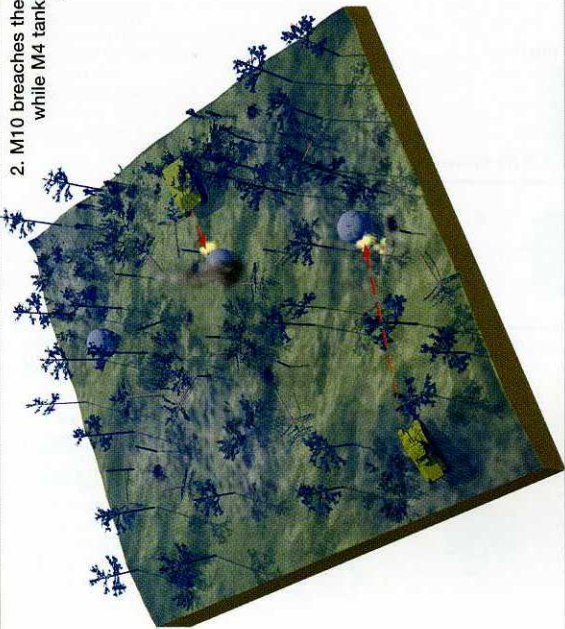


Taking out bunkers on the Siegfried Line, September 1944

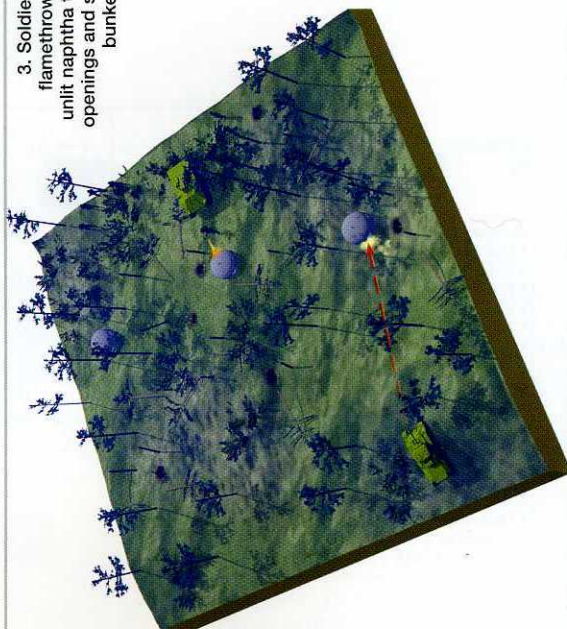
1. M4 Sherman suppresses bunker, while infantry with M10 tank destroyer attack



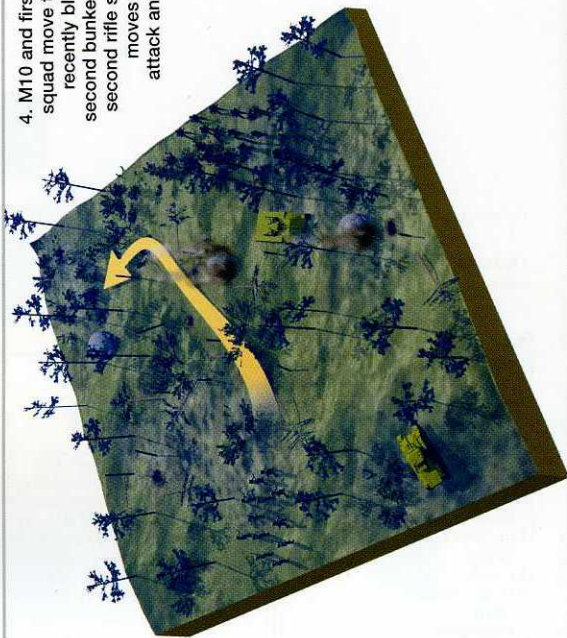
2. M10 breaches the bunker, while M4 tank fires on another



3. Soldier with a flamethrower fires unit naptha through bunker openings and sets the bunker alight



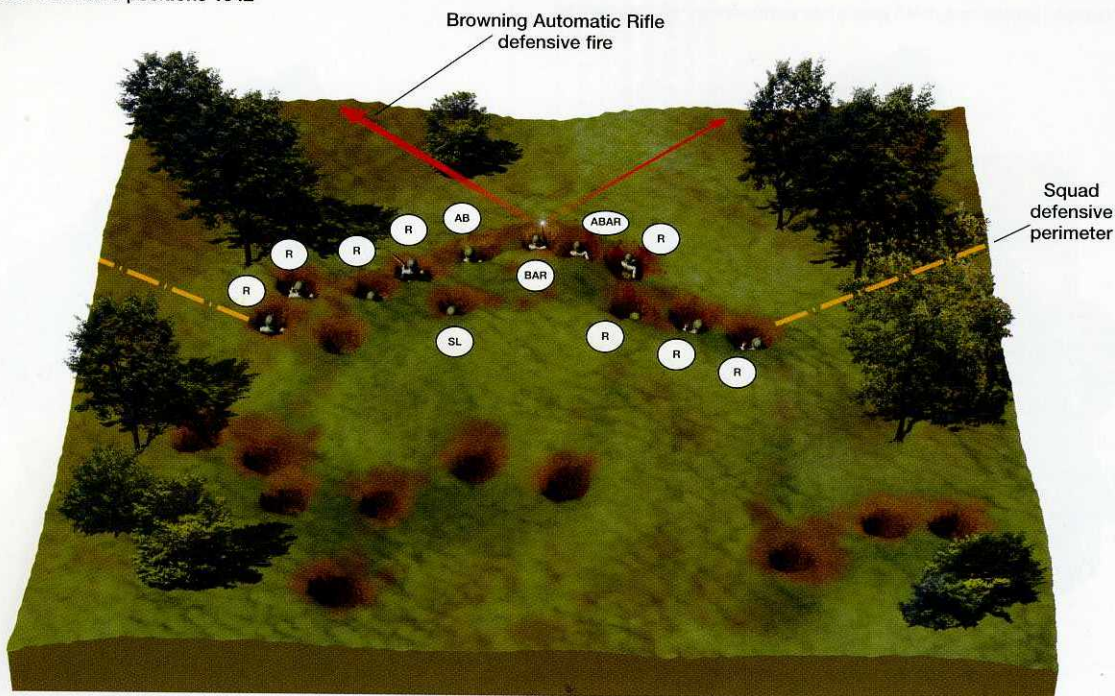
4. M10 and first rifle squad move to the recently blasted second bunker. The second rifle squad moves on to attack another.



Joseph, Lieutenant, 1945 (see plate commentary for full details)

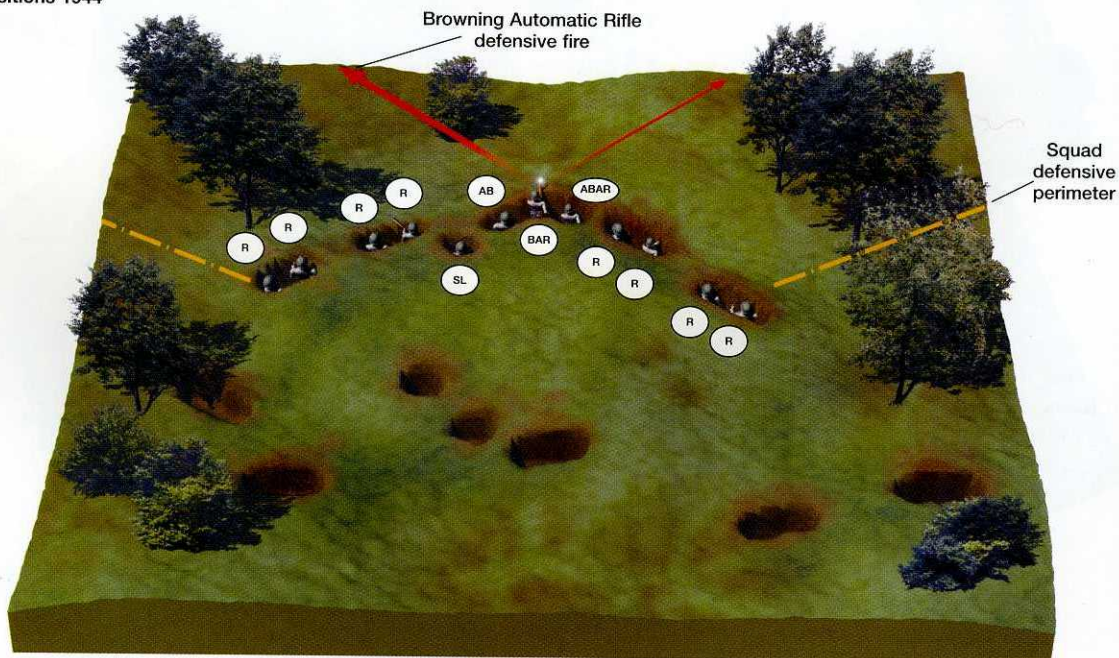


Squad defensive positions 1942



(R)	Rifleman	(AB)	Ammunition Bearer for BAR
(BAR)	Browning Automatic Rifleman	(SL)	Squad Leader
(ABAR)	Assistant Browning Automatic Rifleman		

Squad defensive positions 1944



swung west into the nearby orchard with about a platoon of infantry, pushing back the platoon trying to defend there.

A third tank swung east into the orchard in front of Joseph's platoon. Joseph watched as Private Hix, an old regular, stood at a corner of a small house with his bazooka and waited for the tank to near. His first three rounds hit, but the tank continued forward. Hix then ran to the rear of the tank and fired another round and again hit the tank, this time blowing it up. The turret spiraled into the air as the tank tipped half over into a ditch. The second tank then pulled back, and Hix chased it almost 200 yards (182m) through a hail of small arms fire, before knocking it out. Joseph had never seen anything like it. The next day, Hix got another Panther; hitting it with three rounds at a range of 2 yards (18.2m) and suffering blast burns when the tank exploded. He was killed by a sniper on July 13.

With this feat of heroism, the men realized that German tanks were as helpless against infantry at close range as the American tanks were, and soon hunter-killer teams were chasing tanks out of the bocage. They learned through experience that the front end on the left side of the Panther was the most vulnerable, because the shell hitting there killed the driver. In two days Joseph's battalion knocked out ten German armored vehicles, three self-propelled guns, and seven Mark Vs: six with bazookas, three with 57s, and the other stopped by a bazooka and killed by either a 57 or a bazooka. Joseph didn't care who killed it as long as it was dead.

Casualties continued to be heavy. His company commander was killed on one day, and the next the new company commander (who had been the XO) was killed by a mortar round hitting him on the shoulder. As there were no officers left in the company, the first sergeant assumed command until an XO from one of the sister companies arrived to take command; he was the only D-Day rifle company officer left in his battalion. Joseph remembered the lieutenant from the training days in the States when he was in the company as a platoon leader.

Joseph and his comrades could sense that the tide was turning in the hedgerows when they found that the Germans were leaving their wounded, and more and more prisoners were taken. If the well-trained company they had begun with had remained, Joseph felt they could have pushed right through.

This phase of the battle had cost Joseph's company 67 casualties; five officers, 12 NCOs and 50 other ranks, which reduced the numbers of the pre-D-Day soldiers remaining to just 80. With the continued flow of replacements, the companies on-the-ground strength stood at 149 or about 75 percent of authorized strength.

The St Lô breakout

Joseph's regiment received a short breather when they left the line after the attacks on Périers. They loaded trucks and moved into an assembly area with the 2d Armored Division's 66th Armored Regiment, and those who did not know quickly figured out their next mission would include fighting alongside armor. Battalions of the 22d married to battalions of the



Exhausted infantrymen with equipment and rations scattered about. The soldiers sleep, read, and ponder the next day.

66th for what many hoped would be the battle to break them out of the beachhead. Joseph remembered fighting alongside the 2d during the 1941 maneuvers and the many years of training as an armored infantry regiment. However, now instead of halftracks, they'd be riding on tanks or in the backs of trucks. Over the next several days, Joseph and his comrades practiced combined arms tactics with the armor company they would fight with, and learned the combat techniques of this particular company.

Men loaded up with extra grenades, bandoleers and K rations; they'd heard that they might be cut off for a while. Joseph knew that with the tanks sometimes spread 200–300 yards (182–271m) apart the squads following them were going to be hard to control, so much was left to the squad leaders' discretion.

As long as there was no resistance, men rode on tanks. When contact was imminent or they were receiving fire, the soldiers hugged closely to the tank's rear, with the leader hanging onto the intercom phone that was mounted on the tank's rear hull so that he could maintain contact with the tank commander.

The attack began on July 26; initially with Joseph's platoon team leading. At first they moved across the hedgerow fields with two tanks leading as scouts and the remaining three following in overwatch positions. On entering the field, the lead Shermans would shell the corners with their 2.93-in (75-mm) and rake the hedge in front with machine gun fire as they traversed the field. Once on the other side, the overwatching tanks moved forward while the infantry went past to secure the hedge against any Germans with Panzerfausts and to find the best place for the tanks to break the embankment. Finished, they ran back behind the tanks and repeated the procedure. There were casualties, but not many.

Darkness fell about 2230 hrs and they received word to continue the attack. The long armored column wound through the burning village of Canisy with tanks silhouetted against the flames. After Canisy, Joseph's column turned off onto the road leading to Le Mesnil Herman. Just after midnight when they were outside the northern edge of town, Joseph heard Germans shouting just on the other side of a hedge about 15 yards (13.65m) away. He jumped off the tank and threw a grenade over the hedge, which exploded just as a Panzerfaust fired. His men dismounted and formed into a skirmish line to clear the hedge, while Germans fired other Panzerfausts from the hedge. One hit a tank, and it blazed so brightly that it lit the night sky. The tanks began pulling back while Joseph's platoon provided security as they turned around. Joseph called up to the platoon leader asking if his men should ride back on the tanks but was told no, with the light they'd all be shot off.

As the other tanks roared past the burning one, more Panzerfausts fired and missed. For the infantry it was a different



These soldiers, dressed in straw hats, are taking some hard-earned rest. Note that their bayonets are fixed.

22d Infantrymen mounted aboard 66th Armored Regiment tanks during the St Lô breakout.





A soldier on the march to Paris. He has a bazooka slung over his shoulder, and his M1 at the ready. He is in stripped marching order, carrying only his raincoat tucked into his web belt.

matter. Germans were in front and behind them, and Joseph's platoon had to pull back or risk being captured or killed. Now with only 14 men, some wanted to make a break for it, but Joseph decided to move back in staggered column so that he had some control. As they passed the burning tank he saw some Germans off to the right, threw a grenade, fired a clip of ammunition and yelled, "Come on men, let's go," and ran up the road with the Germans returning fire into the dark. Two of Joseph's men went down wounded, but the others grabbed them under the armpits and dragged them out of the line of fire. About an hour later, they staggered into the tank laager, where Joseph found that, because of casualties, his platoon was to be split up between the two other rifle platoons.

Over the next days there were other memorable instances: German vehicles joining the moving columns at night, with neither side the wiser until they passed by a checkpoint; or German artillery firing red smoke, which was the American signal used to indicate enemy positions and which resulted in Joseph being shelled by his own artillery. However, this was not nearly as bad as being bombed by the two American P-47s, normally good at identification, that struck them while they marched through a village, killing seven and wounding six. There was a three-day fight at Tessy-sur-Vire, where the tank company Joseph was with made the final assault on the village with one tank, with all the others knocked out or disabled.

About four days later with the breakout well established, Joseph was riding on one of the tanks in the lead. There'd been no contact for hours and the vehicle pulled ahead to reconnoiter a piece of open ground on the side of a gently sloping hill. As soon as they crested the hill, Joseph saw a flash, felt a bang and then heat as an antitank round slammed into the turret, flinging him off the tank to land hard on the ground.

SIEGFRIED LINE AND HÜRTGEN FOREST

Joseph had been knocked unconscious by the antitank round and woke up in a collection station with a nasty gash on his head. A doctor sutured



An awards ceremony: the division commander stands on the hood of a jeep, extolling the virtues of the men receiving the awards.

his wound, gave him an initial shot of penicillin, and sent him by ambulance to a convalescent hospital where he took his first real bath since leaving England, slept between sheets, and ate hot food. This was nothing like the front: no one was shooting around him or at him. Two weeks later he returned to duty with a scar on his scalp and a Purple Heart. He met up with the friend who'd been wounded earlier and returned to England for hospitalization. His friend told him that the doctors there did a wonderful job, but once he was convalescent they sent him to Fees' Farm for recuperation. There, he said, they overdid the rehabilitation program; day and night training with lectures, hikes, inspections and details, and full field inspections every day – almost as if they intended to make it so miserable

that infantrymen would want to go back to the front.

Joseph returned to his squad in time to participate in the fight at Le Teilleul, and then the liberation of Paris. He stood in an awards ceremony where he received the Silver Star for his actions on the first night of the breakout and later in a mass ceremony where infantrymen who had been in combat 30 days received the Combat Infantryman Badge. What griped Joseph and his comrades was that those who weren't there because of wounds hadn't been submitted for a CIB. With the CIB came an increase in pay of \$10; in addition, foreign service added another 20 percent of base pay.

After Paris, with the German forces in quick retreat back to the German border, Joseph's regiment mounted any vehicles they could find, and now motorized, drove toward Chauny, seized St Vith, and entered Germany at Bleialf. They all enjoyed motoring across France and Belgium, with American aircraft flying overhead, tanks, and tank destroyers close at hand if they made contact. Casualties were not nearly as high as they had been earlier, and many soldiers wounded earlier in the bloodletting of Normandy returned. The only problem with some

returnees was that they were listed as limited duty, and there weren't any assignments in a rifle company for a soldier who was unfit. Joseph and his comrades did what they could to see them assigned to headquarters and the Service Company.

With the slowdown in casualties, Joseph noted that marginal or burnt-out officers were being relieved of their assignments and sent to the rear for reclassification. They were replaced by officers wounded earlier during the campaign and now rested, new officers from the United States, or battlefield commissionees. The same situation applied to NCOs; however, they were normally demoted to private and kept in the line instead of being sent to the rear. Others made it back to the Service Company as

Soldiers pass through the West Wall.



They kept what they had captured that day; however, German counterattacks prevented them from taking the town. After a few more days they settled into what the leadership called "aggressive patrolling" and those in the line called "letting sleeping dogs lie". Here they spent a month recuperating and they received what infantrymen usually went without: showers, movies, Red Cross donuts and coffee, and USO shows, not to mention mail and hot food.

Promotion

In September, Joseph's battalion commander had recommended he be commissioned, and in October, Joseph left the line. During a five-day period he bathed, slept on clean sheets, received new clothes, was discharged as an enlisted man and appointed as an officer in the Army of the United States, receiving a seven-digit serial number beginning with 199. Regular officers had numbers ranging from 01 (General Pershing) up to 99,999: Reserve and National Guard officers six-digit numbers, and AUS OCS and battlefield commissioned officers seven-digit numbers.

When he returned to the 22d, the now Lieutenant Stein met with Colonel Lanham, his regimental commander. Joseph remembered the colonel's admonition "If you ever fail to do your duty it is the penitentiary for you." Next, he met the regimental executive officer who

assigned him to a company in the 1st Battalion, away from the company he had been with since February 1941.

The combat infantryman in the Hürtgen Forest.



Hürtgenwald

In early November, they moved into the town of Rötgen. Before they moved however, division instructed everyone to remove their shoulder patches and to muddy the bumper numbers so that the Germans would not know who was facing them. When Joseph cut the light khaki square from the Parson's jacket he'd worn since 1942, he found the original olive drab coloration of his jacket underneath and thought of the years that he'd worn it.

They spent their first days in the forest preparing for the coming attack, supposedly including a bombing attack as big as the one that had sprung them from Normandy. Some of the new sleeping bags arrived for the front line infantry, as well as the officers' liquor ration, which Joseph and the other officers shared with their NCOs. Rain fell constantly and temperatures stayed in the thirties. As the junior officer in the company, Joseph passed the absentee ballots for the presidential election around, but there didn't seem to be much interest.

The attack began on November 16, with everyone expecting to be through the forest in a day and at the Ruhr River the next. A series of ridges running north and south crossed the region, thickly wooded ridges with great hardwood and fir trees standing 75–100 feet (22.8–30m) tall. The bodies of the firs hugged close to the ground and interlocked with their neighbors, making it appear as if the forest were a sea of green, which the midday sun seldom broke through, leaving an eerie twilight effect.

However, try as they might, they couldn't break the shell of the German defenses. Walking up the steep slope on the first day, most of the company machine gun section was wiped out by artillery, and the next morning was even worse, with barrage after barrage catching the company forming for the day's assault. As the days passed it seemed almost routine to take 20 percent casualties and be replenished that night with replacements. By the fourth day there were only a few originals left.

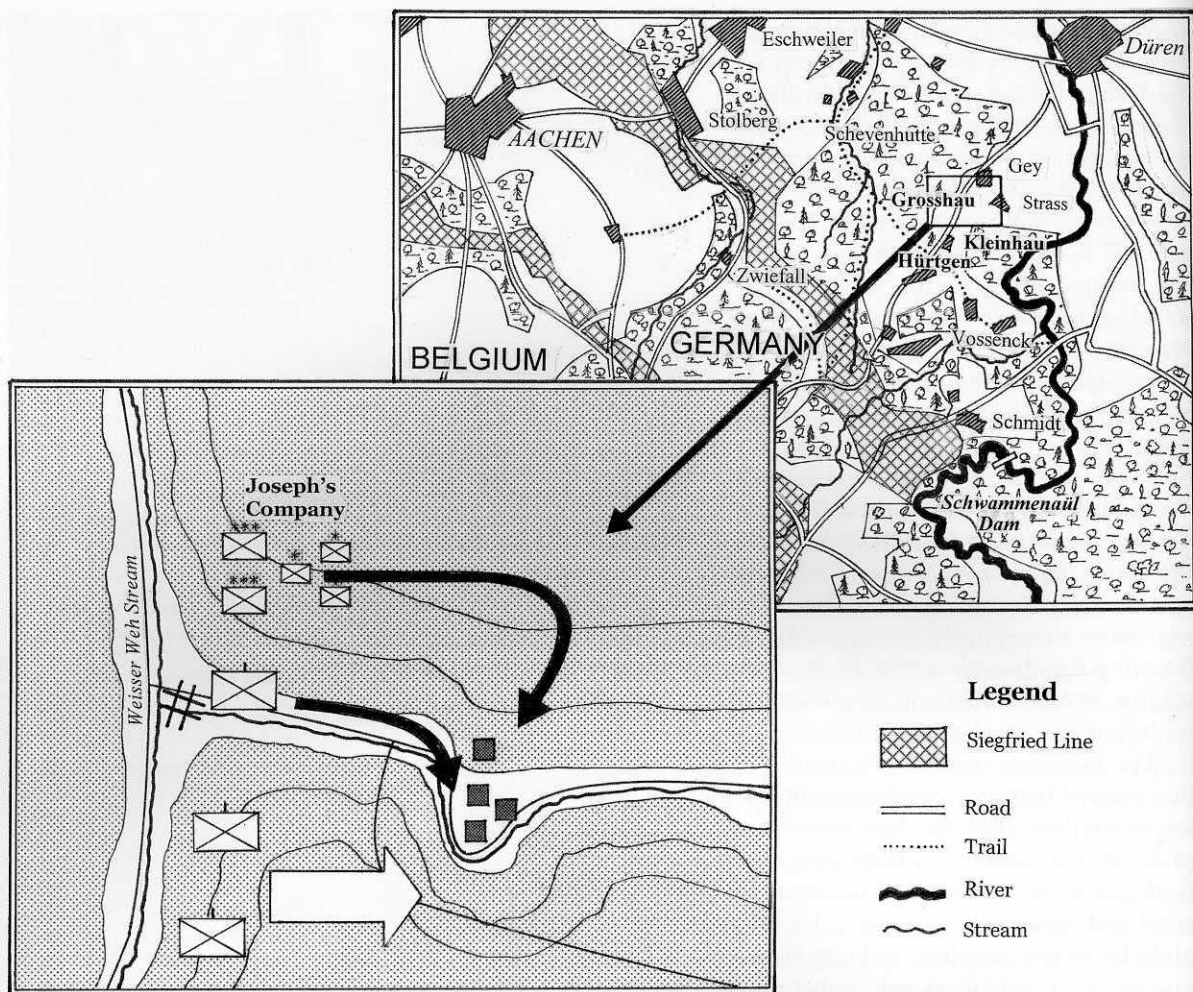
The battle seemed never to end. Joseph didn't think it possible, but this current battle in the forest with the constant artillery, rain and cold was worse than what they had experienced in Normandy. In the half-light of the forest, soldiers on both sides traded small arms fire in the frozen slush, while artillery cracked overhead and men swore softly and died, or cried and collapsed – hoping to be evacuated. With the heavy rains and night frosts the men huddled together in mud- and water-filled foxholes, one in three pulling guard, and shivered until the sun came up. Here there was no rear area and companies almost never pulled out of the line unless there was nothing left of them and replacements did not keep up with losses. Joseph had heard that his battalion commander had been killed early on and that many of the remaining old men had been wounded, and he had a premonition that he would not make it either.

It was damned cold. Joseph knew like the other old men to bundle up with as much clothing as he could because the chance of getting his bedroll brought forward at night was nil. He wore everything he could get his hands on in an effort to keep warm. The enlisted overcoats were really warm, however, when they got wet and muddy they seemed to weigh a ton; with everything else they were carrying, many opted to wear their Parson's jackets and raincoats if they had them. As outerwear, Joseph wore his enlisted man's raincoat. Under that he wore a Parson's jacket, a pair of fatigues; beneath the fatigues, a pair of ODs; beneath the ODs, long underwear, and long socks; and on his head his knit cap underneath his helmet. He began with gloves, but quickly lost them, so put socks on his hands to ward off the cold.

They'd been issued the M1943 combat boot in September, but once wet, they bred cold feet, trench-foot, and frostbite: soldiers quickly learned not to lace the boots too tightly because it constricted the blood flow. Many of those who had galoshes threw them away because



Riflemen in raincoats on alert in their newly dug foxhole.



Hürtgen Forest
November 20, 1944.

they were too exhausted to clean them. As trench-foot cases went up, exhaustion cases went down.

About six days into the attack, with only about 90 men left in the company, they attacked again, this time toward a hill that overlooked the east-west road. Joseph's platoon led, with the other platoons following. Joseph's platoon attacked in a "V" with two squads nearest the enemy and one back.

Joseph's scouts were about 100 yards (91m) out and moving up the hill when one stopped, signaled that he saw enemy on his right and motioned Joseph forward. Joseph spotted six or seven small bunkers and radioed the information to his company commander, who then put everyone into a long skirmish line that flanked the pillboxes. Joseph's platoon moved forward in a skirmish line of riflemen and light machine guns supported by a pair of heavy machine guns and BARs on each flank, taking one bunker out at a time with few casualties of their own. The Germans did not offer much resistance because the bunkers' firing ports all faced south and southwest and Joseph's company had attacked from the north.

After eliminating the bunkers, Joseph's platoon continued its march northeast to the crest of Hill 136. A German machine gun fired on his lead squad as it crossed an east-west firebreak, splitting Joseph's platoon.

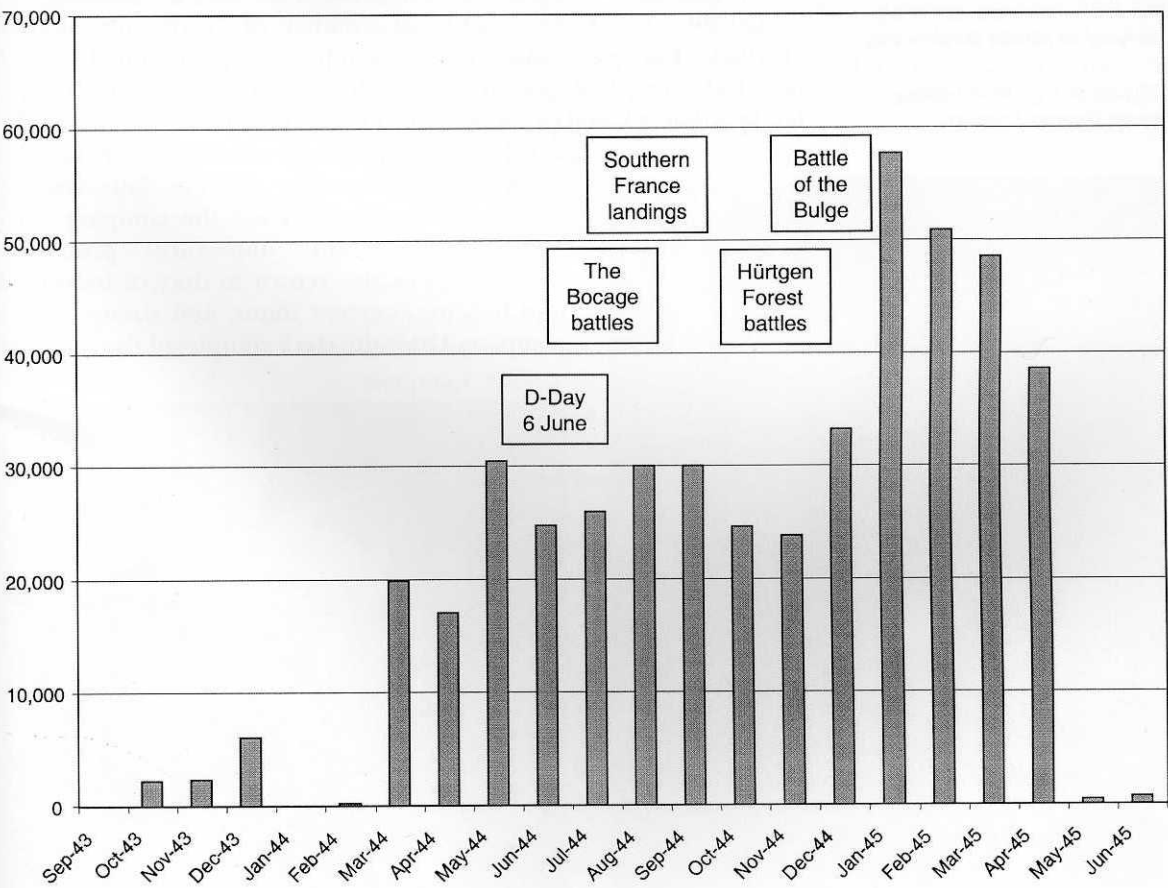
One of the machine-gunners attached to his platoon picked up his M1917A1 water-cooled heavy machine gun and moved forward firing it from the hip, walking his rounds onto the target, and allowing time for soldiers in the platoon to flank the position to knock it out. As Joseph walked up the trail, he stopped and knelt for a moment beside the seriously wounded gunner, grasped his hand, and thanked him.

As soon as they reached the top of the hill, everyone began digging in. Not more than 20 minutes later, they heard tanks off to the north and soon saw German infantrymen working their ways through the trees. While Joseph's platoon engaged with rifles and machine guns, the forward observer for the 44th Field Artillery called in repeated fire missions and the Germans fell back.

Resupply and replacements

Joseph's company commander was wounded the day before Thanksgiving and the executive officer took his place, with Joseph becoming the XO. Now he was concerned more with resupply and replacements than he was with fighting. Joseph used the weapons platoon and German prisoners to carry the wounded back, then with the newly arrived replacements the weapons platoon men brought forward water cans, ammunition, and rations over 1,500 yards (1,365m) of rough terrain. His company's daily requirement amounted to about a ton and

Overseas shipment of replacements to the ETO.



ETO replacement camp. A smoky haze hangs over as men gather by the fire.



BELOW LEFT Soldiers beginning the climb into the Hürtgenwald. The rear soldier appears to be carrying an M1936 Musette bag.

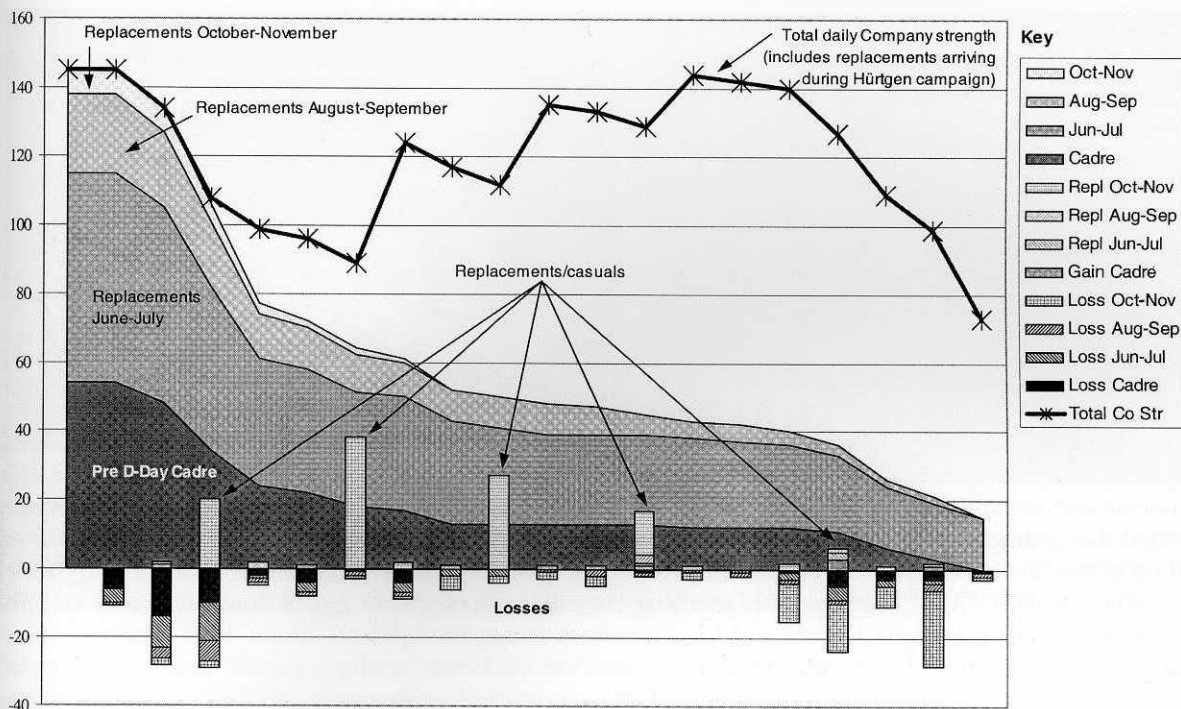
BELOW RIGHT US Doughboy meets German Landser.



a half of ammunition, about 40 cases of rations, 20 five-gallon cans of water, and all the dry socks they could find. It was a never-ending struggle to keep the company supplied. It would have been nice to bring up the bedrolls, but there was only so much the men could carry.

Outside the heavy attritional combat of Normandy and the Hürtgen, there was seldom a time when Joseph's platoon had not been near full strength. Replacements usually arrived to occupy the positions left by soldiers killed or those who had been evacuated wounded. When a soldier was killed or wounded, the company clerk entered his name on the daily company Morning Report, which was the company's daily history: assignment, departure, promotion, demotion, casualty, return to duty of individuals, and location, current status, and strength of the company. Once the clerk completed the report the





Devolution of a Company.

regimental adjutant compiled all of the company reports and from them submitted requisitions for soldiers. The clerk dropped soldiers from the company roster after he had received notice they had processed through the division clearing station. Those nonbattle casualties leaving because of sickness remained on the rolls until they had been gone five days.

As he looked over his newest batch of replacements, Joseph thought with some wryness that the longer the war lasted, the more competent leaders became, while the quality of individual soldier declined. These were good kids, but they just did not have the training that he and his earlier comrades had experienced before being committed to combat. Even better was getting back those soldiers who had been previously wounded. No matter what corps they were in, soldiers returned to their original companies. Upon recovery, these so-called "casuals" were reassigned to the same company with the priority going to those soldiers who had been with the unit longest. Joseph knew they were seasoned veterans but from his own experience, he also realized they were usually skittish in their initial action. Now they all understood they were mortal.

Joseph was wounded on Thanksgiving Day, 1944, after only one day as XO, when units were reconstituting and preparing for the next attack. The attack through the woods continued until the 22d was withdrawn on December 3. Soldiers in rifle companies on November 16 had a 92 percent chance of being injured wounded or killed during the next 18 days, and counting replacements, losses reached an average of 138 percent in rifle companies. Total regimental casualties numbered 2,805, with the three battalion commanders being killed or wounded during the first three days, and commanders for the nine rifle companies numbering more than 30. On December 3, they moved 90 miles

(144km) to the quiet sector near Luxembourg City, where on December 16 elements of the German Seventh Army struck the regiment during the initial stages of the Battle of the Bulge.

CASUALTIES

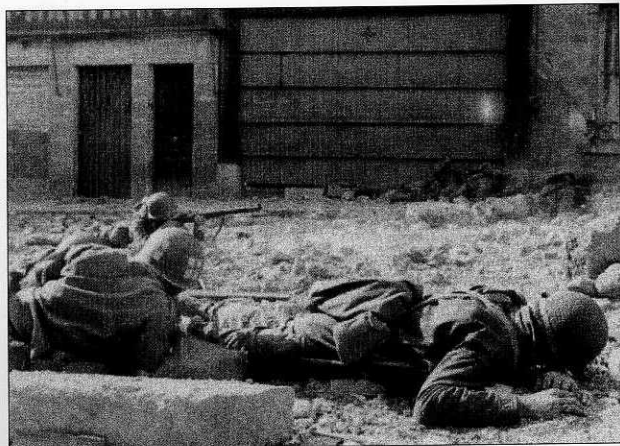
One of Joseph's men, wounded earlier at Brandscheid in September, arrived midway through the Hürtgen Forest battle, and in days had transitioned from a clean, warm environment to one of utmost barbarity. He'd spent the first days back as an observer for the mortar section and had been caught in an artillery barrage that had killed the radioman next to him. Unable to dig in, he stayed motionless throughout the shelling until the next morning.

When Joseph found him the next morning the soldier's eyes were mindlessly staring straight ahead, and his arms were wrapped tightly around the radio. Joseph instantly knew that he was "out of change" and sent him back to the aid station. The soldier didn't recognize Joseph as he picked up the radio and started back. Joseph watched him as he hit the ground when shells came near, then got up and continued walking as soon as his concussion had passed. When he arrived at the aid station, he simply sat down and waited until a medic asked his problem: he didn't answer, only stared straight ahead. The medic snapped his fingers a couple of times in front of the vacant eyes, and then wrote on the tag "exhaustion." When ordered to, the soldier climbed into an ambulance with other exhaustion cases for the ride to 622d Exhaustion Center.

The ETO based its standard treatment for combat exhaustion on experience from the Mediterranean, a process known as narcotherapy. This consisted of putting the man to sleep for three days using sodium amytal, hooking an intravenous tube of saline solution to keep him hydrated, and waking him only long enough to help him to the latrine. While he slept the soldier lived the nightmares of his days in combat, and was hollow-eyed and frail upon awakening. Next came showers, hot food, and more sleep.

Then there was rehabilitation with a psychiatrist so that hopefully he could rejoin his unit of the front line, but this seldom worked, because once he found that a medical tag reading "Combat Fatigue" removed him from the horrors of combat, a neuropsychiatric casualty sometimes made an almost continual circuit between the exhaustion center and the front lines until he was killed or the war was over.

In 1945, studies in the ETO reflected the same findings as the MTO, that as the war progressed, more veteran officers and noncommissioned officers with extended time



A medic dresses a wounded man while another soldier in the background continues fighting.



A battalion aid station in the Hürtgen Forest.

on the front lines fell victim to neurosis, and like the MTO infantrymen had an aggregate of 200–240 days on the line until they had “no change left” and cracked-up

When Joseph was wounded on Thanksgiving Day, he was shepherding the hot marmites of turkey sandwiches forward. An artillery shell hit a tree alongside the white tape they were following, showering everyone below with tree splinters and shell fragments. Joseph felt a burning in his leg and a sharp blow to his left foot. A medic hastily bandaged his leg and sent him hobbling back to the battalion aid station, supported by two other more mobile wounded. They followed a group of four litter bearers carrying a soldier up and down the muddy hills and across the streams, sometimes slipping and dropping the litter.

At the aid station, Joseph was triaged with the others, with each quickly examined and sorted into different categories of need. They told him that they could do nothing for him there but give him morphine, as they started a plasma drip into his arm and placed him into a corner until an evacuation ambulance arrived. He looked around and found the station looked like a slaughterhouse; a pile of bloody bandages in one corner, and shoes and clothing crumpled in a heap in another. The blankets on the stretchers were more red than olive drab. Finally, he climbed into an ambulance along with other wounded, two litter cases slung in racks with him, and the others sitting on the seat and floor. The ambulance started down the trail pock-marked by artillery, bomb, and mortar craters, and the vehicle sharply jolted left and right. The driver called out that they were nearing the bridge and to hold on because the Germans were intermittently shelling. The vehicle picked up speed and at every bump Joseph felt the jars traverse his leg and spine, worse than any medieval torture he could imagine. At least he was out of the forest.

They arrived at the regimental collection station, where wounded soldiers from throughout the regiment were collected. Again they were triaged with the walking wounded being sent to wait in one room, while the more seriously wounded, Joseph among them, lay on litters in another.

An aid man looked at Joseph's foot and began cutting through his layers of clothing from the knee down. With the shoe exposed, Joseph saw that his foot lay oddly twisted. The more the medic cut, the more sharp jabs of pain cut through his drug induced haze. Cutting through the shoelaces was excruciating, and Joseph fainted when the medic began cutting through the boot leather. Joseph remained unconscious while they lifted him into another ambulance for shipment to the Division Clearing Station. Those who had died were placed outside the building with a blanket placed over their bodies.

At the clearing station, ward boys moved down the line of wounded with pans of hot water, the first hot water most had seen since early November, so that they might clean the grime, shave, brush their teeth, and comb their hair. Once processed the wounded were separated into



Walking wounded in the Hürtgen Forest leave the line, as other soldiers move up.

categories and sent to field hospitals in Eupen, Verviers, and at Malmady. This was where Joseph along with the other officers, were separated from the enlisted men and put into their own wards.

Joseph not only had a lacerated and broken foot, he also had the onset of trench-foot, one of the reasons he was able to walk from the company back to the battalion aid station. He hadn't been able to feel the pain. He'd been wearing overshoes over his combat boots; however, once his boots got wet they never dried. Overshoes were so unsatisfactory when worn over combat boots that 60 percent of the cold injury victims in the division were found to have become disabled while wearing them.

From the evacuation or general hospital within the army boundaries, soldiers normally rode a hospital train to one of the hospitals near Paris. From there, trains might further evacuate them to the coast for a ship to England or for a longer recovery to the United States. Alternatively, if circumstances were favorable, a soldier might be loaded aboard an aircraft for the trip to England.

The convalescent hospital was a place where post-operative soldiers who had not yet recovered could rest and recuperate. Those whose expected recovery was longer than the theater's evacuation policy (between 1944 and 1945, evacuation policy to the United States varied between 90 and 120 days) transferred to a hospital in the United States.

Joseph remained in hospital through the month of December, while his regiment was fighting in Luxembourg on the southern flank of the Bulge, and through much of January when the regiment was moving into position to continue its attack on the West Wall. During the latter part of his stay at the rehabilitation hospital for officers at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire, when he wasn't going through reconditioning, making him fit for duty, he was able to do the sightseeing he had been unable to do as an enlisted man. In marked contrast to the multitude of medals the flyboys were wearing, Joseph wore only his Combat Infantryman Badge, knowing that only infantrymen could earn it.

After a short furlough in Paris, Joseph rejoined his company in early February, just after his regiment had finally taken Brandscheid, an objective which had eluded them in September 1944. There were already seven officers in his company; however, they assigned him back to his platoon as a "spare" in the likely event there were further officer casualties.

PRÜM, R&R, AND CROSSING THE RHINE

Joseph was happy to be back, however, after being wounded twice he didn't harbor any illusions as to whether he would survive the war. He found that he had missed the opportunity to return to the States for a furlough granted to those twice wounded. Although he qualified, they had already filled the allocations through March.

Arriving just as his platoon had taken Brandscheid, Joseph had orders to continue the attack the next day. His heart was in his throat as he motioned his men forward. He wished that he were a private so that he could hide, instead of being one of the few combat veterans

remaining from D-Day – and as an officer commissioned from the ranks, he couldn't let his men down.

They swept through one small village and were at the top of a crest when a German attack boiled out of the town below. It was not serious, but it stopped the attack for the day. Joseph looked out over the long rolling hills surrounding Prüm and could observe anything that moved for miles. He called his artillery observer up and they adjusted fire on the different groups of German soldiers they observed.

There were more days of fighting through the hills, the most memorable of which was when Joseph's company and another were cut off on the opposite side of a stream by machine gun fire. Friendly tanks were unable to cross and they had to fight up the ridge unassisted. A German tank-infantry attack hit them while they were reforming, and they were just able to hold on using bazookas against the tanks and calling in artillery against the infantry.

To Joseph, it seemed that they settled into a routine of attack, take casualties, seize the day's objective, and prepare for the next day's attack. It was debilitating work in terms of human endurance, but at least the men could see measurable progress. In nine days Joseph's regiment captured 12,373 Germans and knocked out more than 150 Siegfried Line bunkers.

On the last day of February they crossed the Prüm River in a night attack moving into real tank country as they drove toward the Rhine. Joseph's company teamed with a company of the 11th Armored to take some towns, until finally they were outside Hillesheim expecting to have to fight their way through to the river. However well the town was fortified, it was undefended and Joseph and his comrades were again able to sleep under roofs.

In mid-March they found out that they were moving out of the line for rest and refit in southern France – the only time they'd been away from artillery fire in 199 days. For two glorious weeks, soldiers sunbathed, drank, slept, chased women, and saw the sights; as well as pulled motor maintenance and conducted some weapons training. Joseph slept the first two days and then went sight seeing. He purchased a camera and took pictures of all the men in his platoon, as well as those sights in Paris when he visited. Those going to rest camps around Paris received a bag full of cigarettes, chocolates, and nylons for barter purposes with the natives. They all agreed that Patton might be an ass when it came to uniform rules, but when it came to taking care of soldiers out of the line there was no equal.

Alerted to move on the 28th, the 22d crossed the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge in a long convoy of trucks on March 30. Joseph looked out from the truck cab at a huge steel girder bridge with its center



**Taking cover behind a tank:
two soldiers in raincoats and
galoshes smoke cigarettes until
the artillery fire lets up.**

A safe and dry company command post inside a captured German bunker.



collapsed into the river. Once across they entered the largest highway he had ever seen and then turned off onto one of the secondary roads heading east. They could tell they were nearing the front lines again because here and there they saw untended dead Germans. They were back at war.

In comparison to previous fights, early April was a quick motor across southern Germany; casualties were light and movements were 20, 35 and even 50 miles a day across hilly terrain on secondary roads. German towns hung white sheets from the windows signifying surrender and no Wehrmacht forces within the confines. The entire regiment suffered



A surrendered German town, displaying white sheets.

only 54 casualties during the new drive, and Joseph's company only nine lost in a vehicular ambush. On the night of April 2, they were inside the town of Hofstetten.

On April 3, the sun was shining and the sky was a dark teal blue as Joseph walked from the door of the company command post. He felt that, with the rapid advances, the war had to end soon. He heard a shell screeching in, felt an explosion, and the blue faded to black. Of the 22 battlefield commissionees in the 22d, of which Joseph was one, six were killed, ten were wounded and two became nonbattle casualties.

Once evacuated by grave registration, Joseph was buried in the Third Army cemetery at Bensheim, Germany, and his personal effects including his medals sent home. His parents found six: the Silver Star, a Bronze Star that Joseph had never mentioned, his Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Medal, and a European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Campaign medal with arrowhead and five campaign stars.

At war's end there were 61 United States Military Cemeteries in Europe. Outside these established military cemeteries there were an estimated 12,000 US soldiers buried in graves by the German Army. Another 6,000 were buried by civilians, and a further 3,000 were isolated battlefield burials. In June 1945, Congress approved ten permanent cemeteries in Europe where soldiers were re-interred. Beginning in 1947, those soldiers whose families requested it were returned to their homes in the United States. Today, military cemeteries overseas are cared for by the American Battlefield Monuments Commission.

In the days remaining in the war in Europe, the 22d continued its sweep to the southeast and cleared Bad Mergentheim, Röttingen and its surrounding hills, Crailsheim, Adelmansfelden, crossed the Lech at Schwabstadt; on April 30, they crossed the River Isar at Unter Schäflarn



To the everlasting glory of the infantry.



April 1945: an overloaded halftrack passes marching soldiers who wear the M1943 field jacket.

and drove southeast to Miesbach-Gusteig. The war for the 22d was practically over on May 4, when it left for the Neumarkt area for occupation duty.

On the day of the German surrender, the regiment's soldiers received a mimeographed page describing the feelings of the old-time members of the 22d.

"This evening Admiral Doenitz has announced to the German people the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces.

Had this surrender occurred the 1st of September on our wave of optimism when we hit the Siegfried Line, or immediately after the defeat of Von Rundstedt and the successful crossing of the Rhine, we would have been wild with joy. The news of Germany's surrender was received by all of us with a calmness very nearly approaching indifference about the feeling deep within our hearts.

There was no revelry last night, no drunkenness, no shouting, no flag waving, no horns blowing; there was a sober realization that it was all over ... and that we, by the strength of our arms and by our own courage, had, with the help of God, completely and finally defeated everything that the warped and twisted soul of a perverted nation could hurl at us ...

There is not one single fighting day of which we must be ashamed or for which we must make excuses. No regiment in the ETO has more right to hold its head high and to march with shoulders back, colors streaming, than this one. Its record, its casualties, its achievements, and the respect it instilled and the terror it struck in the heart of the German Army speak for themselves."

And Taps played over the many cemeteries in Europe.

Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hill, from the sky
All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh
Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
Rest in peace, Soldier brave, God is nigh

GOING HOME

The 22d deployed overseas in January 1944, had entered combat on June 6, 1944 and had suffered casualties much higher than most other regiments deployed to the European Theater. The average infantry regiment in the ETO lost 41 officers and 668 enlisted men killed and 133 officers and 2,413 enlisted wounded. In approximately 11 months of combat, the 22d Infantry Regiment suffered 111 officers and 1,594 enlisted men killed, three officers and 209 enlisted missing or captured, and 419 officers and 7,287 enlisted wounded, most of whom were lost during the Normandy Campaign and in the Hürtgen Forest. This does not include the thousands of nonbattle casualties due to trench-foot, frostbite, combat fatigue or other illnesses. Combined battle and nonbattle casualties for the 22d Infantry

reached 351 percent and 560 percent for the rifle companies.

Of all infantry casualties suffered by the United States in World War II, 64 percent occurred in the European Theater after June 6, 1941. The price of success in Northern Europe amounted to 377,858 battle casualties in the 45 Army infantry divisions deployed there. In the 1,026 months of infantry regiment combat, 74,718 (19.9 percent of total battle casualties) were killed.

The 22d departed France aboard the USAT *General James Parker* on July 3, and arrived in New York Harbor on July 11. There were still many soldiers remaining who had sailed overseas with the 22d just 18 months previously, most of whom had served in the different headquarters and in the regiment's separate companies. The great majority of soldiers who had landed in rifle companies with Joseph on D-day were long gone, either wounded, shipped home as high pointers on furlough, discharged in May and June 1945, or buried in cemeteries throughout France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. By the end of the war, of the 229 soldiers assigned to his company prior to D-Day 54 had been killed, 22 captured or missing, and 192 wounded – 60 percent of those seriously – amounting to 268 battle casualties for the initial cohort of this one rifle company.

On arrival in the United States soldiers received a 30-day furlough. Those not discharged earlier were scheduled for redeployment to the Pacific after reassembling at Camp Butner, North Carolina. With Japan's surrender, the remaining high point officers and men received their discharges and went home.

The 22d Infantry in its 11 months of combat lived up to its motto "Deeds not words," garnering two Distinguished Unit Citations, (the equivalent of the Distinguished Service Cross being awarded to every man in the unit) for the St Lô breakout and the Hürtgen Forest, and its 3d Battalion another for the Normandy landing. Its soldiers also were honored with the Belgian Fourragère for the operations in Belgium and the Ardennes. The 22d remained at Camp Butner, until it inactivated on March 1, 1946, and remained inactive until July 15, 1947 when it was activated at Fort Ord, California.

FOLLOWING PAGE **Infantry**
Division casualties in the ETO.

BELOW **22d Infantry**
battle casualties.

	KIA Officers	KIA Enlisted men	MIA Officers	MIA Enlisted men	WIA Officers	WIA Enlisted men	Total Battle Casualties
D-Day and Carentan Jun 1944	25	401	1	228	121	2,164	2,940
Périers July 1944	16	249	1	56	39	897	4,198
St Lô Breakout, Paris Aug 1944	8	56	0	30	19	273	4,584
Siegfried Line Sept 1944	11	92		10	17	333	5,047
Schnee Eifel Oct 1944	1	14		1	7	71	5,141
Hürtgen Forest Nov 1944	27	233		12	70	1,472	6,955
Hürtgen Forest, Luxembourg Dec 1944	2	197		41	22	345	7,562
River Our Jan 1945	1	16		7	2	59	7,647
Prüm Feb 1945	10	145	1	47	29	446	8,325
Prüm Mar 1945	2	100		4	8	188	8,627
Pursuit Apr 1945	7	86		4	10	244	8,978
End of War 1945		1			1	1	8,981

Division	Component	Organized/ federalized	Arrived Overseas	First Combat	Campaigns in ETO	Deaths	Wounded	Captured
*1	RA	May 1917	Aug 7, 42	Jun 1944	5	1,973	11,448	631
4	RA	Jun 1940	Jan 26, 44	Jun 1944	5	4,907	17,371	731
29	NG	Feb 1941	Oct 1, 42	Jun 1944	4	4,824	15,541	845
90	AUS	Mar 1942	Apr 4, 44	Jun 1944	5	3,951	14,386	1,185
101 Abn	RA	Aug 1942	Sep 15, 43	Jun 1944	4	2,155	6,388	967
*82 Abn	RA	Mar 1942	May 10, 43	Jun 1944	4	1,992	6,560	unk
2	RA	Sep 1917	Oct 18, 43	Jun 1944	5	3,512	12,785	786
*9	RA	Aug 1940	Nov 8, 42	Jun 1944	5	2,905	14,066	868
30	NG	Sep 1940	Feb 23, 44	Jun 1944	5	2,547	13,376	1,164
79	AUS	Jun 1942	Apr 16, 44	Jun 1944	5	2,964	10,971	1,186
83	AUS	Aug 1942	Apr 16, 44	Jun 1944	5	3,637	11,807	663
35	NG	Dec 1940	May 26, 44	Jul 1944	5	2,997	11,526	1,471
8	RA	Jul 1940	Dec 14, 43	Jul 1944	4	2,852	1,057	668
5	RA	Oct 1939	May 11, 42	Jul 1944	5	2,684	9,549	683
28	NG	Feb 1941	Oct 18, 43	Jul 1944	5	1,873	9,609	3,953
80	AUS	Jul 1942	Jul 7, 44	Aug 1944	4	3,500	12,484	1,077
*3	RA	Nov 1917	Nov 8, 42	Aug 1944	4	2,472	9,489	70
*45	NG	Feb 1940	Jun 22, 43	Aug 1944	4	1,510	7,246	266
94	AUS	Sep 1942	Aug 11, 44	Sep 1944	4	1,172	4,789	619
26	NG	Jan 1941	Sep 7, 44	Oct 1944	4	2,136	7,886	806
44	NG	Sep 1940	Sep 15, 44	Oct 1944	3	1,215	4,207	308
95	AUS	Jul 1942	Aug 17, 44	Oct 1944	4	1,387	4,945	380
104	AUS	Sep 1942	Sep 7, 44	Oct 1944	3	1,119	3,657	237
102	AUS	Sep 1942	Sep 23, 44	Oct 1944	2	1,088	3,668	137
100	AUS	Nov 1942	Oct 20, 44	Nov 1944	3	997	3,539	491
103	AUS	Nov 1942	Oct 20, 44	Nov 1944	3	834	3,329	421
99	AUS	Nov 1942	Oct 10, 44	Nov 1944	3	1,168	4,177	1,136
84	AUS	Oct 1942	Oct 4, 44	Nov 1944	3	1,468	5,098	749
78	AUS	Aug 1942	Oct 25, 44	Dec 1944	3	1,634	6,103	385
87	AUS	Dec 1942	Nov 12, 44	Dec 1944	3	1,316	4,342	429
106	AUS	Mar 1943	Nov 17, 44	Dec 1944	3	693	1,278	6,697
63	AUS	Jun 1943	Aug 12, 44*	†Dec 1944	2	980	3,236	219
75	AUS	Apr 1943	Nov 22, 44	Dec 1944	3	932	3,314	116
42	AUS	Jul 1943	Dec 9, 44	†Dec 1944	2	655	2,212	1,175
17 Abn	RA	Apr 1943	Aug 25, 44	Dec 1944	3	1,394	4,904	426
70	AUS	Jun 1943	Dec 10, 44	†Dec 1944	2	847	2,713	397
66	AUS	Apr 1943	Dec 25, 44	Dec 1944	1	800	636	21
76	AUS	Jun 1942	Dec 20, 44	Jan 1945	3	523	1,811	141
69	AUS	May 1943	Dec 12, 44	Feb 1945	2	384	1,146	10
65	AUS	Aug 1943	Jan 21, 45	Mar 1945	2	260	927	67
71	AUS	Jul 1943	Feb 6, 45	Mar 1945	2	279	843	19
89	AUS	Jul 1942	Jan 21, 45	Mar 1945	2	325	692	40
86	AUS	Dec 1942	Mar 1, 45	Mar 1945	1	161	618	19
97	AUS	Feb 43	Mar 1, 45	Apr 1945	1	215	721	61
13 Abn	RA	Aug 1943	Feb 6, 44	none	1	9	3	0

* Earlier in Mediterranean Theater of Operations (European Casualties only).

† Elements

MUSEUMS, COLLECTIONS AND RE-ENACTMENT

National D-Day Museum
945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
<http://www.ddaymuseum.org/home.htm>

National Infantry Museum Georgia
ATSH-OTN Building 396
Baltzell Avenue
Fort Benning, GA 31905-5593
706-545-2958

4th Infantry Division Museum Texas
Fort Hood, TX 76544-0719
(817) 287-8811

First Division Museum at Cantigny
1 S 151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL 60187-6097
(630) 668-5185

Fort Stewart Museum Georgia
Building 814
Wilson and Utility Streets
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-5028
(912) 767-7885

The World War II Re-Enactors Ring at <http://www.reenactor.net/ww2/ww2ring.html> on the internet has a great number of sites dedicated to both re-enactors and collectors of militaria.

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COLOR PLATE COMMENTARY

A: JOSEPH, SERGEANT, JUNE 6, 1944

1. Here we see Joseph as on D-Day. He wears late-war HBTs of olive drab herringbone twill. Under his jacket, he wears a thick woolen brown army shirt. He also wears canvas leggings and standard issue boots. Joseph wears the M1 helmet with mesh netting.

The rank insignia on his sleeve indicate that he is a Sergeant. On his left shoulder is the 4th Infantry Division shoulder patch (2). He wears an M1928 cartridge belt with a water canteen and first aid pouch attached.

He is armed with a .30 caliber M1 "Garand" rifle (3, also shown in top view, 4). The lettered parts of the M1 are as follows: (a) sling, (b) front sight, (c) front hand guard, (d) bolt, (e) rear sight, (f) safety, (g) stock, (h) plate butt, (i) barrel.

He bears two M1 sling bandoleers (9) of .30 caliber ammunition wrapped over each shoulder and slung across his chest, but these are obscured by the black invasion gas mask which is carried across his chest, and secured over his shoulders. The gas mask (5) is held in a black rubberized waterproof bag specially designed for amphibious landings.

He has two Mark II grenades (6) pinned on to his M1936 web suspenders at the chest.

On his back he bears the M1928 haversack without bedroll but with an entrenching tool attached.

An inset detail (7) shows Joseph wearing his overseas cap with light blue infantry cord. The 22d Infantry Crest (8) appears on the front of this.

B: SQUAD WEAPON POSITIONS

(1) shows the dug-in position for an M1919A4 light machine gun from a side view, and (2) shows the position from above. This "horseshoe" emplacement was protected by a raised parapet about three feet wide all the way around. The internal trench was about two feet wide: the gun platform was roughly at chest height, and was three and a half feet square. The man firing the gun is the gunner, and the man next to him feeding the ammunition is the assistant gunner.

(3) shows the dug-in position for 2.36 in. bazooka from the side, and (4) shows it in cutaway view and without figures. (5) shows the bazooka position from overhead and with the spoil removed. The overall depth of the position is five and a half feet, including the foot hole at the bottom which is two feet

deep and two feet in diameter. The gunner fires the weapon, while the assistant gunner feeds the ammunition into the rear of the bazooka.

(6) shows an open emplacement for a 60mm (2.36 in.) mortar, from the side; (7) shows it from the rear and facing the enemy; and (8) shows it from above. The assistant gunner loads the shell into the mortar, the gunner aims it and adjusts firing. The position is dug to a depth of three and a half feet, and is about five feet long by four feet wide. Spoil is piled all around the position to provide protection and camouflage. (9) shows the maximum elevation for the 60mm mortar and (10) the maximum traverse. These mortars did not have 360 degree traverse as current mortars do, allowing the positions to be much smaller than those of today.

C: RIFLE COMPANY 1944, AND ASSAULT COMPANY JUNE 6, 1944

As in 1943 the rifle company contained three platoons of three squads each with 12 infantrymen plus a five-man headquarters element; a weapons platoon with a mortar section consisting of three 60mm (2.36 in.) mortars and a machine gun section containing two M1919A3 .30 caliber light machine guns (see Warrior 45 for an organizational diagram of the Rifle Company TO&E for 1941; and Warrior 53 for an organizational diagram of the Rifle Company TO&E for 1943.) Source: Rifle Company TOE 7-17, 26 February 1944.

Assault Company organization June 6, 1944: some rifle companies were reorganized for the assault as depicted, with one officer and 29 enlisted, or the number of soldiers able to fit into an LCPV. Each assault section was self-contained and had the capacity with its flamethrowers, bazookas and explosives to eliminate enemy strong points.

D: REGIMENTAL HQ AND RIFLE BATTALION HQ COMPANIES, 1944

Regimental Headquarters. The command and control element for the infantry regiment consisted of the Regimental Headquarters command group, a communications platoon and an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon. A company headquarters section provided the basic housekeeping

and security needs for the headquarters. Source: Infantry Regiment Headquarters Company TOE 7-12, 26 February 1944.

Battalion Headquarters. The command and control element for the infantry battalion consisted of the battalion headquarters command group, battalion staff, communications platoon and an antitank platoon of three 57mm (2.22 in.) guns. As with the regiment, a company headquarters section provided basic housekeeping and security. Source: Infantry Battalion Headquarters Company TOE 7-16, 26 February 1944.

The service company within the regiment (not shown) provided the wherewithal that the combat units fought with. It comprised the regimental headquarters platoon section, a transportation platoon and a company headquarters. This company normally was well behind the fighting units.

E: CANNON COMPANY AND ANTITANK COMPANY, 1944

The cannon company contained three platoons of two 105mm (4.1 in.) cannon each, either self propelled or towed. These provided immediate indirect artillery fire support to the regiment. Later, many were married with the regiment's direct support field artillery battalion for command control of fire missions. Source: Cannon Company TOE 7-14S, 26 February 1944.

Antitank Company, 1944. The antitank company consisted of three platoons of three 57mm (2.22 in.) antitank guns apiece, and a mine-laying/mine-clearing platoon. This company plus the nine 57mm (2.22 in.) guns in the three battalions represented the major antitank capabilities of the infantry regiment. Source: Antitank Company TOE 7-19, 26 February 1944.

F: TAKING OUT BUNKERS ON THE SIEGFRIED LINE, SEPTEMBER 1944

This illustration shows the stages and principles of how to clear German bunkers and pillboxes on the Siegfried Line (West Wall), and is set on the borders of Germany in the fall of 1944. The Americans are attacking a section of large bunkers, and will remove the Germans from there. The four stages shown are as follows.

1. The Americans suppress and smoke the bunkers using an M4 Sherman, while infantrymen accompanied by an M10 tank destroyer attack in a narrow column until they are behind the bunker.

2. The M10 tank destroyer fires point blank at the rear door or aperture until a breach is made. There is now smoke/dust pouring from the front of the first bunker where the M4 tank shell has hit. The infantry have their rifles trained on the bunker, to cover exiting Germans. The Sherman M4 tank fires on another concrete bunker at the front

3. A soldier with a flamethrower advances, first firing unlit naphtha through the openings and then firing a burning

blast, either smoking out or killing the Germans within. Other infantrymen from the first squad of men stay under cover.

4. The M4 Sherman ceases firing against the second bunker, as US troops are now behind it. The M10 tank destroyer and the 1st rifle squad now move to the rear of the recently blasted 2nd bunker. Once again, they try to stay under cover. The second rifle squad of 12 soldiers maneuvers around the destroyed bunker to attack another one.

G: JOSEPH, LIEUTENANT, FEBRUARY 1945

Joseph is now 27 years old. He is a lieutenant and proud of his accomplishments, but has been beaten down by wounds and war.

1. He wears the Parson's jacket, with the blue Combat Infantryman Badge above his left breast pocket. The CIB was only awarded to infantrymen at regiment level or lower who had served at least 30 days in the line or had been wounded previously. The 4th Infantry Division shoulder patch is on the left shoulder of his jacket, and Second Lieutenant bars on his shoulders. Under his jacket, he wears a thick woolen brown army shirt, and he wears HBT trousers, tucked into his 1943 buckle top combat boots. Under his HBTs he wears his woolen army trousers to keep warm. He wears the M1 helmet, without netting, and under this a wool knit cap.

He is armed with the M1 .30 cal carbine instead of his favored M1 rifle, and the ammunition for this is stored in the pouches attached to his M1936 belt. The M1 carbine was authorized to platoon leaders. Lieutenants sometimes also carried the M1 Thompson submachine gun.

He is carrying the M1936 musette bag strapped over his shoulders, worn like a small rucksack. A pair of binoculars hangs around his neck.

2. The lensatic compass was used by infantry combat leaders. 3. An M1938 dispatch bag, more commonly called a map case. 4. The SCR 300 radio was used at company level, whereas the SCR 536 radio (5) was used at platoon level.

H: SQUAD DEFENSIVE POSITIONS 1942 AND 1944

The top half shows the rifle squad defensive positions in 1942: a squad of men would lay themselves out so and dig their foxholes to defend against enemy attack. The bottom half shows the rifle squad defensive positions in 1944: note the different layout. Early doctrine recommended individual foxholes because they were harder targets to hit and did not collapse as easily as larger two-person foxholes when shelled or driven over by tanks. Later leaders found that although this was true, the isolation of a soldier in a foxhole negated all advantages, so opted for larger two- and three-man positions, in which one soldier could sleep while the other pulled guard.

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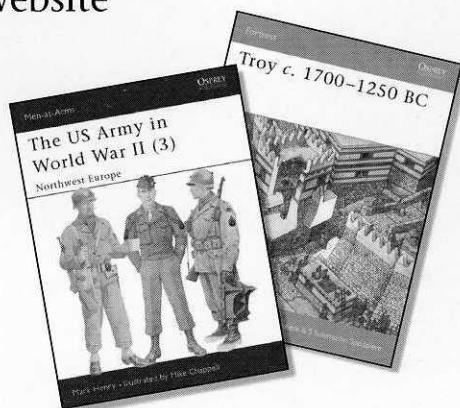
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